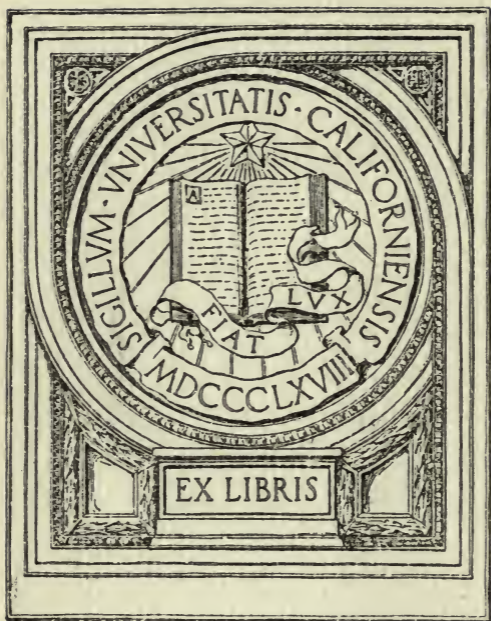


POEMS


ROBERT
UNDERWOOD
JOHNSON



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COLLECTED POEMS, 1881-1919

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COLLECTED POEMS

1881-1919

BY

ROBERT UNDERWOOD JOHNSON

Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters

COMPRISING HIS VOLUMES:

"THE WINTER HOUR," "SONGS OF LIBERTY,"

"SAINT-GAUDENS: AN ODE, AND OTHER VERSE,"

"POEMS OF WAR AND PEACE," "ITALIAN RHAPSODY,"

AND OTHER POEMS NOT BEFORE COLLECTED



NEW HAVEN

YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS

LONDON: HUMPHREY MILFORD, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

1920

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THIS COLLECTION IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED
TO MY SON

OWEN JOHNSON

AND TO THE LOVELY AND ABIDING
MEMORY OF

CÉCILE DE LÁGARDE JOHNSON

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I

THE WINTER HOUR

AND OTHER POEMS

TO RICHARD WATSON GILDER

INVOCATION: TO THE GORSE

"When the gorse is out of bloom, then love is out of season."—
ENGLISH PROVERB.

HARDY gorse, that all year long
Blooms upon the English moor,
Let me set thee at the door
Of this little book of song.

When the dreary winter lowers,
Vainly dost thou seek a fellow
To thy blossom brave and yellow—
Color of the cheeriest flowers.

Thou of love perennial art
Such a symbol that they say:
"When no gorse-bloom greets the day,
There's no love in any heart."

INVOCATION

Thus all days are Love's and thine.—
 Spicy flower on thorny branch,
 In Love's service thou art stanch —
 Wilt thou, wilding, enter mine?

THE WINTER HOUR

I

OF all the hours of day or night
Be mine the winter candle-light,
When Day's usurpers of Love's throne —
Fame, Pride, and tyrant Care — are flown,
And hearts are letters of hid desire
Yielding their secrets at the fire.
Now beauty in a woman's face
Glows with a sympathetic grace,
And friend draws closer unto friend,
Like travelers near a journey's end;
In casual talk some common hope
Finds fresher wing and farther scope;
The eye has language fit to speak
Thoughts that by day 't were vain to seek
Out of their silence; and the hand
Grasps with a comrade's sure demand.
Pile high the winter's cheer and higher,—
The world is saved, not lost, by fire!

HEARTH-SONG

WHEN November's night comes down
With a dark and sudden frown,
Like belated traveler chill
Hurrying o'er the tawny hill,—
Higher, higher
Heap the pine-cones in a pyre!
Where's a better friend than fire?

Song's but solace for a day;
Wine's a traitor not to trust;
Love's a kiss and then away;
Time's a peddler deals in dust.
Higher, higher
Pile the driftwood in a pyre!
Where's a firmer friend than fire?

Knowledge was but born to-night;
Wisdom's to be born to-morrow;
One more log — and banish sorrow,
One more branch — the world is bright.
Higher, higher
Crown with balsam-boughs the pyre!
Where's an older friend than fire?

II

O SILENT hour that sacred is
To our sincerest reveries! —
When peering Fancy fondly frames
Swift visions in the oak-leaved flames;
When Whim has magic to command
Largess and lore from every land,
And Memory, miser-like, once more
Counts over all her hoarded store.
Now phantom moments come again
In a long and lingering train,
As not content to be forgot —
(O Death! when I remember not
Such moments, may my current run,
Alph-like, to thy oblivion!):
The summer bedtime, when the sky —
The boy's first wonder — gathers nigh,
And cows are lowing at the bars,
And fireflies mock the early stars
That seem to hang just out of reach —
Like a bright thought that lacks of speech;
The wistful twilight's tender fall,
When to the trundle comes the call

Of fluting robins, mingling sweet
With voices down the village street;
The drowsy silence, pierced with fear
If evil-omened owl draw near,
Quaking with presage of the night;
The soft surrender when, from sight
Hid like a goddess in a cloud,
Comes furtive Sleep, with charm endowed
To waft the willing child away
Far from the margin of the day,
Till chanticleer with roustering blare
Of reveille proclaims the glare.
Remember? — how can one forget
(Since Memory's but Affection's debt)
Those faëry nights that hold the far,
Soft rhythm of the low guitar,
When not more sweetly zephyr blows
And not more gently Afton flows
Than the dear mother's voice, to ease
The hurts of day with brook and breeze,
To soothing chords that haunt the strings
Like shadows of the song she sings!
And as the music's lullaby
Locks down at last the sleepy eye,

Green visions of a distant hill
The fancy of the singer fill,
While spreads Potomac's pausing stream,
And moonlight sets her heart adream
Of that old time when love was made
With valentine and serenade.

Now, too, come bedtimes when the stair
Was never climbed alone.— Ah, where,
Beyond the midnight and the dawn,
Has now that other footstep gone?
Does sound or echo more reveal
When thirty winters may not steal
That still-returning tread,— that voice,
That made the timid child rejoice
Against the terrors of the wind,—
That tender tone that smoothed the mind?
Great heart of pity! it was then
God seemed a father, denizen
Of His own world, not chained to feet
Of some far, awful judgment-seat.
Then was revealed the reverent soul
Whom creed nor doubt could from the
goal

Of goodness swerve; who need not bend
To be of each just cause the friend.
Of whose small purse and simple prayer
The neediest had the largest share;
Beloved of child, and poor, and slave,
Nor yet more lovable than brave;
Whom place could not allure, nor pelf,—
To all men generous save himself;
Whose passion Freedom was — with no
Heat-lightning rage devoid of blow,
But as a bridegroom might defend
His chosen, to the furious end.

Still other moments come apace,
Each with fond, familiar face:
The pleasures of an inland boy
To whom great Nature was a toy
For which all others were forsook —
A spirit blithesome as a brook
Whose song in ripples crystalline
Doth flow soft silences between;
The dormant soul's slow wakenings
To dimly-apprehended things;

The sudden vision in the night
As by a conflagration's light;
The daily miracle of breath;
The awe of battle and of death;
The tears of grief at Sumter's gun,
The tears of joy when war was done,
And all the fainting doubt that masked
As hope when news of war was asked.
And oh! that best-remembered place,
That perfect moment's melting grace,—
The look, the smile, the touch, the kiss,
The halo of self-sacrifice,—
When Nature's passion, bounteous June,
To Love's surrender added boon,
As though the heir of every age
Had come into his heritage.

THE LOST ROSE

THERE was a garden sweet and gay,
Where rarest blossoms did delay
The look that Fanny bent to find
The flower fairest to her mind,
Till, at her word, I plucked for her
A rose of York-and-Lancaster.

THE WINTER HOUR

The red did with the white agree,
Like passion blent in purity;
And as she blushed and blushed the more,
Till she was like the bloom she bore,
I said, "Dear heart, I too prefer
The rose of York-and-Lancaster."

'T is years ago and miles away!
For oh! nor rose nor maid could stay
To freshen other Junes. And yet
How few who do not quite forget! —
Or know to which the words refer:
"Sweet rose of York-and-Lancaster."

In vain, when roses do appear
Upon the bosom of the year,
I search the tangle and the town
Among the roses of renown,
And still the answer is—"Oh, sir,
We know no York-and-Lancaster."

But ah, my heart, it knows the truth,
And where was sown that seed of youth;
And though the world have lost the rose,
There's still one garden where it grows —
Where every June it breathes of her,
My rose of York-and-Lancaster.

III

Now call the Muses' aid to flout
The bleak storm's roaring rage without;
And bring it hail, or bring it snow,
It shall be Love's delight to show
What Fire and two defenders dare
Against the legions of the air,
Whose sharpest arrows shall not find
Cleft in the armor of the mind.
Why dread we Winter's deep distress,
His pale and frigid loneliness,
When here at hand are stored, in nooks
All climes, all company, in books!
A moving tale for every mood,
Shakspeare for all,—the fount and food
Of gentle living,—Fancy's link
'Twixt what we are and what we think,—
Fellow to stars that nightly plod
Old Space, yet kindred to the clod.
Choose now from his world's wizard play
What is frolicsome and gay;
'T was for such evening he divined
Not Juliet but Rosalind.

Put the storied sorrow down,—
Not to-night, with Jove-like frown,
Shall the mighty Tuscan throw
Fateful lightnings at his foe,
Nor Hawthorne bend his graceful course
To follow motive to its source.
No, let gladness greet the ear:
Cervantes' wit, or Chaucer's cheer,
Or Lamb's rich cordial, pure and sweet,
Where aromatic tinctures meet;
Or princely Thackeray, whose pages
Yield humor wiser than the sages;
Or, set in cherished place apart,
Poets that keep the world in heart:
Milton's massive lines that pour
Like waves upon a windward shore;
Wordsworth's refuge from the crowd —
The peace of noon-day's poisèd cloud;
That flaming torch a jealous line
Passed on to Keats from Beauty's shrine;
Visions of Shelley's prophet-soul,
That, seeing part, could sing the whole,
Most like a lark that mounts so high
He sees not earth but from the sky.

And of the bards who in the grime
And turmoil of our changing time
Have kept the faith of men most pure
The three whose harps shall last endure:
Browning, Knight of Song,— so made
By Nature's royal accolade,—
Whose lines, as life-blood full and warm,
Search for the soul within the form,
And in the treasures of whose lore
Is Love, Love, ever at the core;
Tennyson, of the silver string,
Wise of the true that sing,
And truest singer of the wise;
And he whose "stairway of surprise"
Soars to an outlook whence appear
All best things, fair, and sure, and near.

IV

UPON the wall some impress fine
Of Angelo's majestic line —
Seer or sibyl, dark with fate;
Near, and all irradiate,

Bellini's holy harmonies,
Bringing the gazer to his knees;
One group to hint from what a height
Titian with color dowers the sight;
A pageant of Carpaccio,
Flushed with an autumn sunset-glow;
Then, of Luini's pensive race,
The Columbine's alluring grace;
And, echo of an age remote,
Beato's pure and cloistered note.
And be not absent from the rest
Some later flame of beauty (blest
As a new star), lest it be said
That Art, that had its day, is dead.
Let Millet speak in melting tone —
Voicing the life that once was stone,
Ere Toil had found another dawn
Of Bethlehem at Barbizon.
Nor is it winter while Dupré
With daring sunlight leads the way
Into the woodland rich and dim;
Who love the forest, follow him;
And they who lean the ear to reach
The whispering breath of Nature's speech,

May with Daubigny wait the night
Beside a lake of lambent light
And margèd darkness — at the hour
(Soul of the evening!) when the power
Of man, that morn with empire shod,
Is shattered by a thought of God!
And ah, one more: we will not wait
For Death to let us call him great,
But, taking counsel of the heart
Stirred by his pure and perfect art,
Among the masters make a place
For Dagnan's fair Madonna's face.

A MADONNA OF DAGNAN-BOUVERET

OH, brooding thought of dread!
Oh, calm of coming grief!
Oh, mist of tears unshed
Above that shining head
That for an hour too brief
Lies on thy nurturing knee!
How shall we pity thee,
Mother of sorrows — sorrows yet to be!

That babyhood unknown
With all of bright or fair
That lingers in our own
By every hearth has shone.
Each year that light we share
As Bethlehem saw it shine.
Be ours the comfort thine,
Mother of consolations all divine!

v

NOR be the lesser arts forgot
On which Life feeds and knows it not,
That everywhere from roof to portal
Beauty may speak of the immortal:
Forms that the fancy over-fill;
Colors that give the sense a thrill;
Soft lights that fall through opal glass
On mellow stuffs and sturdy brass;
Corners of secrecy that invite
Comfort, the handmaid of Delight;
The very breath of sculptures old
Held poised within a perfect mold;

A dainty vase of Venice make,
Fashioned for its one rose's sake —
Ay, winter's miracle of flowers
To cheat the mood and mask the hours:
Love's velvet-petaled pledge of June,
That, on the wings of Passion strewn,
Made courtly Persia conqueror
Of thrice the world she lost in war; —
Jonquils, that Tuscan sunshine hold
Within their happy hearts of gold; —
Narcissus, such as still are found
By Marathon's mountain-envied mound —
Food of the soul, well bought with bread,
As sage Hippocrates hath said.
All these perchance shall faintly yield
Odors from some Sicilian field
Where young Theocritus deep-strayed
In blooms celestial — where his shade,
Haunting his storied Syracuse,
Finds balm for his neglected Muse.
Add wanton smilax to entwine
Your Dancing Faun or God of Wine,
And you shall summon in a band
The joys of every summer land.

VI

BUT there 's a vision stirs the heart
Deeper than books or flowers or art,—
When Music, mistress of the mind,
Lender not borrower from the Wind,
Rival of Water and of Light,
Adds her enchantment to the Night.
What thoughts! what dreams! what ecstasies
When heart and fingers touch the keys!
Across what gulf of fate Love springs
To Love, if Love caress the strings!
By this mysterious amulet
One shall remember or forget;
When words and smiles and tears shall fail,
The might of Music shall prevail;
Shall move alike the wise and weak;
All dialects alike shall speak;
Outglow the rainbow to the doomed,—
Consuming all, be unconsumed;
Shall save a nation in its throes,
Luring with concord grappling foes;
Shall madden thus, yet shall be glad
(Oh, paradox!) to soothe the mad.

This rhythmic language made to reach
Beyond the reticence of speech —
Bland as the breeze of May it sighs,
Or rolls reverberant till the skies
Tremble with majesty! Not the mote
Most hid of all creation's rote
But holds some message that shall be
Transmuted into harmony.
Already, since the lisping-time
When music was but chant or chime,
What spirits have to man been lent
From God's discordless firmament! —
Beethoven, brother of the Nine,
But with a birthright more divine,—
Whose harmonies that heavenward wend
Wings to the laden spirit lend
Until, serenely mounting higher,
It melts into the starry choir;
Wagner, in whom the Passions meet
To throw themselves at Music's feet,—
Whose murmurings have charm to wring
From Love the secret of the Spring,—
And in whose clamor sounds the siege
Of heaven when Lucifer was liege.

Händel, whose aspirations seem
Like steps of gold in Jacob's dream;
Mozart, simplest of the great,
Heir of Melody's estate,
Who did blithe pipes of Pan prolong
And heighten to a seraph song.
Schumann, rare poet, with a lyre
Stringed in Imagination's fire;
And oh, that one of human strain! —
Chopin, beloved child of pain,
To whom the whole of Love was known —
Marvel, and mystery, and moan,
The joy secure, the jealous dart
Deep-ambushed in the doubting heart,
And all the perilous delight
That waits on doubt, as dawn on night.

Ah, who shall wake the charm that lies
Past what is written for the eyes
In such a scroll? The poet's need
Is that a poet's heart should read.
Happy the winter hour and fleet
When flame and waiting passion meet

In her pure fire whose chords betray
The St. Cecilia of our day!
Oh, velvet of that Saxon hand
So lately iron to command! —
Like, at the shower's sudden stop,
The softness of the clinging drop.
What tender notes the trance prolong
Of that famed rhythmic cradle-song!
How faëry is her woven spell
Of minuet or tarantelle!
Who would return to earth when she
Transports us with a rhapsody!
And when in some symphonic burst
Of joy her spirit is immersed,
That path celestial fain to share,
We vow to breathe but noble air!

VII

ARMED with melody like wine,
Lighted by the friendly shine
Of the rich-replenished hearth,
Let us drink of wine and mirth

While waning evening's aftermath
Grows pleasant as a winding path
With wit's surprises and the tale
Adventurous, spreading sudden sail
For Arcady and hallowed haunts
Along the shores of old Romance:
Now shall fare the fancy forth
To pillared grottoes of the north,
Where circling waters come again
Like thoughts within a sleepless brain;
Or, coursing down a softer coast
Whose beauty is the Old World's boast,
Shall pause for words while memory's flame
Kindles at Taormina's name.

And now in shifting talk appears
Pomp of cities clad with years:
Gay or gloomy with her skies,
Gray Paris like an opal lies
Sparkling on the front of France.
Avignon doth hold a lance
In a tourney-list with Nîmes.
Fair Seville basks in helpless dream

Of conquest, as in caged air
Dreams the tamed lion of his lair.
Regal Genoa still adorns
Her ancient throne; and Pisa mourns.
Now we traverse holy ground
Where three miracles are found:
One of beauty — when with dyes
Of her own sunset Venice vies.
One of beauty and of power —
Rome, the crumbled Babel-tower
Of centuries piled on centuries —
Scant refuge from Oblivion's seas
That swept about her. And the third? —
O heart, fly homeward like a bird,
And look, from Bellosguardo's goal,
Upon a city with a soul!
Who that has climbed that heavenly
height
When all the west was gold with light,
And nightingales adown the slope
To listening Love were lending hope,
Till they by vesper bells were drowned,
As though by censers filled with sound —

Who — who would wish a worthier end
To every journey? or not blend
With those who reverently count
This their Transfiguration Mount?

LOVE IN ITALY

THEY halted at the terrace wall;
Below, the towered city lay;
The valley in the moonlight's thrall
Was silent in a swoon of May.
As hand to hand spoke one soft word
Beneath the friendly ilex-tree,
They knew not, of the flame that stirred,
What part was Love, what Italy.

They knew what makes the moon more bright
Where Beatrice and Juliet are,—
The sweeter perfume in the night,
The lovelier starlight in the star;
And more that glowing hour did prove,
Beneath the sheltering ilex-tree,—
That Italy transfigures Love,
As Love transfigures Italy.

VIII

AND thou, who art my winter hour —
Book, picture, music, friend, and flower —
If on such evening, dear, I trace
Paths far from Love's divine embrace,
Wandering till long absence grows
Into brief death — less death's repose —
Let me be missed with love and cheer,
As miss we those of yesteryear
With whom we thought (beguiling hope!)
To stray together down Life's slope,
While Age came on like gentle rain.
They who but ceased their joyous strain —
Where may the limit to the sea
Of their bereaving silence be?
Yet sorrow not: we may prolong,
If not the singer's voice, the song.
And if beyond the glorious strife
Of this good world, I tread new life,
Reluctant, but, by Heaven's aid,
With infant instinct unafraid,

May Memory plead with thee to save
Out of my song its happier stave.
From the Dark Isthmus let not gloom
Deepen the shadows of thy room.
For me no ban of smile or jest:
Life at its full is holiest.
Let all thy days have pure employ
In the high sanity of joy;
Be then, as now, the friend of all,
Thy heart a thronged confessional,
A fount of sympathy, a store
Of jewels at an open door.

Here do I falter, love, for fear
Of sacrilege to what is dear.
Not now — not here; some luminous time,
Some perfect place, some fortunate rhyme
May yield that sacrificial part
That poets fitly give to Art.
Ever the moment most elate
Must for a speech sufficient wait;
Only the happiest know, alas!
How soundless is the brimming glass.

But, though Love need nor praise nor oath,
And silence oft is firmer troth,
Yet know that if I come no more,
'Tis fault of sail, or sea, or shore,
Not of the pilot,— for the heart
Sees its way homeward from the start.
If Death have bond that Love can break,
It shall be broken for thy sake.
If spirits unto mortals teach
Some rudiment of subtler speech,
My presence shall about thee stay
To prompt the word it cannot say.

So when, with late farewell and slow,
The guests into the night shall go,
Each pulse by sympathy more warm,
Forgetting the forgotten storm,
And thou alone into the blaze,
Thrilled with the best of life, shalt gaze
With hunger for the life divine,
Oh, be that blessed moment mine! —
With thee, who art my winter hour,
Book, picture, music, friend, and flower.

A SPRING PRELUDE

O TARDY April, is thy full choir here?
The redbreast, picket of the swarming spring,
Whistles a sudden chirrup of alarm
Before his level flight; and soft at eve
His melody, on grass half-robin high,
Falls like a vesper's throbbings from aloft.
The sparrow tempts the turf to faster growth
With her coy nesting, while her happy mate,
High in the promise-reddened maple-top,
O'er-bubbles with ecstasies of hoarded song.
The mellow tunings of the oriole's flute,
Rich as his coat, foretell his summer joy
And pitch the key of gladness for the year.
Here is the bluebird, best of mates and sires,
And pewee, restless as a lover's fear,
With cousin phoebe, bleating tearfully.
The humblebee, that, nectar-drunk, shall soon
Linger within the sybaritic flower,

Feeds his impatience at the cautious bud;
And from the furrow's wet and windy reach,
Where March but lately swung his icy scythe,
Ripples the velvet air about the cheek,
Laden with faintest chorusings, as though
The brimming silence overflowed in sound.

O tardy April, is the full choir here?
Alas for me! thou hast forgot to bring
Out of the South one childish, bird-like voice,
Whose absence doth delay the year, and makes
My songs and thine but preludes till she come.

BEFORE THE BLOSSOM

IN the tassel-time of Spring
Love's the only song to sing;
 Ere the ranks of solid shade
Hide the bluebird's flitting wing,
 While in open forest glade
No mysterious sound or thing
 Haunt of green has found or made,
Love's the only song to sing.

Though in May each bush be dressed
Like a bride, and every nest
 Learn Love's joyous repetend,
Yet the half-told tale is best
 At the budding,— with its end
Much too secret to be guessed,
 And its fancies that attend
April's passion unexpressed.

Love and Nature in the Spring
Gave us Arcady. Still ring —

Vales across and groves among —
Wistful memories, echoing

Pan's far-off and fluty song.
Poet! nothing harsher sing;

Be, like Love and Nature, young
In the tassel-time of Spring.

LOVE IN THE CALENDAR

WHEN chinks in April's windy dome
Let through a day of June,
And foot and thought incline to roam,
And every sound 's a tune;
When Nature fills a fuller cup,
And hides with green the gray,—
Then, lover, pluck your courage up
To try your fate in May.

Though proud she was as sunset clad
In Autumn's fruity shades,
Love too is proud, and brings (gay lad!)
Humility to maids.
Scorn not from nature's mood to learn,
Take counsel of the day:
Since haughty skies to tender turn,
Go try your fate in May.

Though cold she seemed as pearly light
Adown December eves,
And stern as night when March winds smite
The beech's lingering leaves;
Yet Love hath seasons like the year,
And grave will turn to gay,—
Then, lover, harken not to fear,
But try your fate in May.

And you whose art it is to hide
The constant love you feel:
Beware, lest overmuch of pride
Your happiness shall steal.
No longer pout, for May is here,
And hearts will have their way;
Love's in the calendar, my dear,
So yield to fate — and May!

A SEPTEMBER VIOLET

FOR days the peaks wore hoods of cloud,
The slopes were veiled in chilly rain;
We said: It is the Summer's shroud,
And with the brooks we moaned aloud,—
Will sunshine never come again?

At last the west wind brought us one
Serene, warm, cloudless, crystal day,
As though September, having blown
A blast of tempest, now had thrown
A gauntlet to the favored May.

Backward to Spring our fancies flew,
And, careless of the course of Time,
The bloomy days began anew.
Then, as a happy dream comes true,
Or as a poet finds his rhyme,—

Half wondered at, half unbeliev'd,—

I found thee, friendliest of the flowers!

Then Summer's joys came back, green-leaved,

And its doomed dead, awhile reprieved,

First learned how truly they were ours.

Dear violet! Did the Autumn bring

Thee vernal dreams, till thou, like me,

Didst climb to thy imagining?

Or was it that the thoughtful Spring

Did come again, in search of thee?

SEPTEMBER'S EVE

I

'T IS Nature's temple, and the day
Is full of worship as of light.
A sigh from now and 't will be night;
The lordly vision will not stay.
With dusky incense throbs the gray
Half dome of sky. A cloistered note
Of lingering bird-song sounds remote
As the last echo of a hymn
Sung in recessional, cold and dim.
I worship, but as though the praise
Must pass through Nature's priestly ways,
For God doth seem as lone and far
As yonder uncompanioned star,
September's Eve.

II

ALONG the mountain's altar crest
The russet deepens in the West,
As when to richer chords the close
Of noble music softly flows.
Now speed my footsteps through the dark,
I see my leaping hearth, and hark!
Th' expectant children's view-halloo
Rings out a melody of cheer.
The rushing feet approach; I hear
The lavish welcome panting through.
How bright the sudden stars appear
In friendly groups! Now God is near,
For Love is in *her* temple, too,
September's Eve.

OCTOBER

SOFT days whose silver moments keep
The constant promise of the morn,
When tired equinoctials sleep,
And wintry winds are yet unborn:
What one of all the twelve more dear —
Thou truce and Sabbath of the year?

More restful art thou than the May,
And if less hope be in thy hand,
Some cares 't were grief to understand
Thou hidest, in the mother's way,
With light and mist of fairy-land
Set on the borders of the day.

And, best of all, thou dost beguile
With color,— friendliest thought of God!
Than thine hath heaven itself a smile
More rich? Are feet of angels shod
With peace more fair? O month divine!
Stay, till thy tranquil soul be mine.

IN NOVEMBER

HERE is the watershed of all the year,
Where, by a thought's space, thoughts do start anear
That fare most widely forth: some to the mouth
Of Arctic rivers, some to the mellow South.

The gaunt and wrinkled orchard shivers 'neath
The blast, like Lear upon the English heath,
And mossy boughs blow wild that, undistressed,
Another spring shall hide the cheerful nest.

All things are nearer from this chilly crown,—
The solitude, the white and huddling town;
And next the russet fields, of harvest shorn,
Shines the new wheat that freshens all the morn.

From out the bursting milkweed, dry and gray,
The silken argosies are launched away,
To mount the gust, or drift from hill to hill
And plant new colonies by road and rill.

Ah, wife of mine, whose clinging hand I hold,
Shrink you before the New, or at the Old?
And those far eyes that hold the silence fast —
Look they upon the Future, or the Past?

ON NEARING WASHINGTON

CITY of homes and in my heart my home!
(Though other streets exact a grudging fee):
How leap my pulses when afar I see
The dawn creep whitening down thy solemn dome!
For now my care-restricted steps may roam
Thy urban groves — a forest soon to be —
Where, like thy shining river, placid, free,
Contentment dwells and beckons me to come.

Ah, city dear to lovers! — that dost keep
For their delight what Mays and what Novem-
bers! —
Kindling the flame, and if it ever sleep,
New-lighting it within the breathing embers;
Dear even in their sorrow! for when they weep
'T is for rare joys, scarce known till Love remem-
bers.

"AS A BELL IN A CHIME"

As a bell in a chime
Sets its twin-note a-ringing,
As one poet's rhyme
Wakes another to singing,
So, once she has smiled,
All your thoughts are beguiled
And flowers and song from your childhood are bringing.

Though moving through sorrow
As the star through the night,
She needs not to borrow,
She lavishes, light.
The path of yon star
Seemeth dark but afar:
Like hers it is sure, and like hers it is bright.

Each grace is a jewel
Would ransom the town,
Her speech has no cruel,
Her praise is renown;
'T is in her as though Beauty,
Resigning to Duty

The scepter, had still kept the purple and crown.

IN THE DARK

AT dusk, when Slumber's gentle wand
 Beckons to quiet fields my boy,
And day, whose welcome was so fond,
 Is slighted like a rivaled toy,—

When fain to follow, fain to stay,
 Toward night's dim border-line he peers,
We say he fears the fading day:
 Is it the inner dark he fears?

His deep eyes, made for wonder, keep
 Their gaze upon some land unknown,
The while the crowding questions leap
 That show his ignorance my own.

For he would go he knows not where,
 And I — I hardly know the more;
Yet what is dark and what is fair
 He would to-night with me explore.

Upon the shoals of my poor creed
His plummet falls, but cannot rest;
To sound the soundless is his need,
To find the primal soul his quest.

In vain these bird-like flutterings,
As when through cages sighs the wind:
My clearest answer only brings
New depths of mystery to his mind,—

Vague thoughts, by crude surmise beset,
And groping doubts that loom and pass
Like April clouds that, shifting, fret
With tides of shade the sun-wooded grass.

O lonely soul within the crowd
Of souls! O language-seeking cry!
How black were noon without a cloud
To vision only of the eye!

Sleep, child! while healing Nature breaks
Her ointment on the wounds of Thought;
Joy, that anew with morning wakes,
Shall bring you sight it ne'er has brought.

Lord, if there be, as wise men spake,
No Death, but only Fear of Death,
And when Thy temple seems to shake
'T is but the shaking of our breath,—

Whether by day or night we see
Clouds where Thy winds have driven none,
Let unto us as unto Thee
The darkness and the light be one.

GOOD MEASURE OF LOVE

ONE twilight was there when it seemed
New stars beneath young eyelids gleamed;

In vain the warning clock would creep
Anear the hour of beauty-sleep;

In vain the trundle yearned to hold
Far-Eyes and little Heart-of-Gold;

And love that kisses are the stuff of
At last for once there was enough of,

As though of all Affection's round
The fond climacteric had been found —

Each childish fancy heaping more,
Like spendthrift from a miser-store,

Till stopped by hug and stayed by kiss —
The sweet contention ran like this:

“How much do I love you?” (I remember but part
Of the words of the troth of this lover)

“I love you” — he said — “why — I love you — a heart
Brimful and running over.

“I love you a hundred!” said he, with a squeeze.

“A thousand!” said she, as she nestled;

“A million!” he cried in triumphant ease
While she with the numbers wrestled.

“Aha! I have found it!” she shouted, “aha!”

(The red to the soft cheeks mounting)

“I love you — I love you — I love you, Papa,
Over the last of the counting!”

NOBLESSE OBLIGE

WHAT is diviner than the peace of foes!

He conquers not who does not conquer hate,
Or thinks the shining wheels of heaven wait
On his forgiving. Dimmer the laurel shows
On brows that darken; and war-won repose
Is but a truce when heroes abdicate
To Huns — unfabling those of elder date
Whose every corse a fiercer warrior rose.

O ye that saved the land! Ah yes, and ye
That mourned its saving! Neither need forget
The price our destiny did of both demand —
Toil, want, wounds, prison, and the lonely sea
Of tears at home. Oh, look on these. And yet —
Before the human fail you — quick! your hand!

ON A CANDIDATE ACCUSED OF YOUTH*

"Too young" do they call him? Who say it? Not they
Who have felt his hard stroke in the civic affray,
When elders, whom veteran fighters had taught
Till they knew all the rules by which battles are fought,
Fumbled weakly with weapons his foresight had sought.

Who thinks of his youthfulness? Surely not they
Who stood at his side through the wavering day,
And knew the quick vision, the planning exact
Of parry and thrust, till the stout helmet cracked
'Neath the bold and true blow that is better than tact.

Yea, the strength of the arm is the strength of its use,
Not its years; and when fighting is on, better choose
Not the rust-eaten sword from the library wall,
But the new blade that leaps in its sheath at the call.
Ask the foe by which weapon he fears most to fall!

* Theodore Roosevelt, 1886.

WASHINGTON HYMN

SUNG AT THE LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE OF THE
WASHINGTON MEMORIAL ARCH, NEW YORK, MAY
30, 1890, TO THE AIR OF THE AUSTRIAN
HYMN BY HAYDN

PRAISE to Thee, O God of Freedom,
Praise to Thee, O God of Law,
Thee the goal of Israel's dreaming,
Thee the flame that Moses saw;
Light of every patriot dungeon,
Home of exile, hope of slave,
Loved by just and feared by tyrant,
Comrade of the true and brave.

Would we pray for new defenders,
Thou art with us ere we call;
Thou wilt find new ranks of heroes
For the heroes yet to fall.

Back we look across the ages,
Forward Thou beyond the sun,
Yet no greater gift we ask Thee
Than another Washington.

TO RALPH WALDO EMERSON

ON THE DEATH OF GARFIELD, SEPTEMBER, 1881

POET of every soul that grieves
O'er death untimely: whose lament
Lights up the farthest Dark, and leaves
A bow across the heavens bent:

Dead in an upper room doth lie
A nation's hero; can it be
Thy ear too faintly hears the cry
The West wind utters to the sea?

Thy Concord pæan may have caught
Glow from an elder Garfield's name:
What fitter aureole could be sought
For such a son than such a flame!

Bard of the Human: since we yearn
For that one manly heart in vain,
Forgive the reverent eyes that turn
Toward the low stream in Concord plain.

Warned by the favoring touch of Death,
Thy *Nunc Dimittis* thou hast sung;
No more the thunder's stormy breath
Shall sweep the lyre with lightnings strung.

And yet, for him, remains — unsigned,
Unspoken — all thy noble praise,
When (port more worth the cruise!) thou find
His sail beyond the final haze;

But us? O Seer, to whose gift
Looms large the Future's better part,
What other prophet voice shall lift
This burden from the people's heart!

ILLUSIONS

Go stand at night upon an ocean craft,
And watch the folds of its imperial train
Catching in fleecy foam a thousand glows —
A miracle of fire unquenched by sea.
There in bewildering turbulence of change
Whirls the whole firmament, till as you gaze,
All else unseen, it is as heaven itself
Had lost its poise, and each unanchored star
In phantom haste flees to the horizon line.

What dupes we are of the deceiving eye!
How many a light men wonderingly acclaim
Is but the phosphor of the path Life makes
With its own motion, while above, forgot,
Sweep on serene the old unenvious stars!

TO-MORROW

ONE walks secure in wisdom-trodden ways
That lead to peaceful nights through happy days —
Health, fame, friends, children, and a gentle wife,
All Youth can covet or Experience praise,
And Use withal to crown the ease of life.

Ah, thirsting for another day,
How dread the fear
If he but knew the danger near!

Another, with some old inheritance
Of Fate, unmitigated yet by Chance,—
Condemned by those he loves, with no appeal
To his own fearful heart, that ever pants
For newer circlings of the cruel Wheel!

Ah, thirsting for another day,
What need of fear
If he but knew the help that 's near?

INSCRIPTION FOR A BURIAL URN

FIRE is older than Earth,
Swaddled her at her birth,
Shall be her windy shroud.
Fear whispers, *Earth with fire endowed*
Is all of Life: but the Soul's Desire
Is something other than earth and fire,
And cannot mold or burn.
Of this is Honor made, and Truth,
And Love that shall out-light the star.
Go find when these began their youth,
Then guess their age's farthest bar;
But look not for it in grave or urn.

QUALITY

I

TAKE, ere the bee hath sipped,
The courtly, maiden-lipped,
And dewy oleander,
And breathe, and dream, and wander.
But ah! take not another,
Lest fragrance fragrance smother.

II

What all your wreathèd wine
To what I taste of mine?
See the spilled jewels run,
Red as an autumn sun! —
Each holding warm and clear
The vintage of a year.

III

Stranger, thy passing word
My waiting heart hath stirred;
My life to thee I lend!
This hour thou art my friend,
And could not dearer be
Loved an eternity.

LUCK AND WORK

While one will search the season over
To find the magic four-leaved clover,
Another, with not half the trouble,
Will plant a crop to bear him double.

ON A GREAT POET'S OBSCURITY

WHAT means his line? You say none knows?

Yet one perhaps may learn — in time:

For, sure, could Life be told in prose

There were no need at all for rhyme.

Alike two waters blunt the sight —

The muddy shallow and the sea;

Here every current leads aright

To deeps where lucent wonders be.

WRITTEN IN EMERSON'S POEMS

(FOR A CHILD)

MIDNIGHT or morning, eve or noon,
Torn March or clover-scented June,—
 Whene'er you stand before this gate,
'T will open — if but not too soon
 You knock, if only not too late.

Well shall it be if, boyhood gone,
A boy's delight you still may own
 To play the dawn-new game of life,—
If what is dreamed and what is known
 In your still-startled heart have strife.

Ere you have banished Mystery,
Or throned Distrust, or less shall be
 Stirred by the deep and fervent line
Which is the poet's sign and fee:
 Be this your joy that now is mine.

When comes the hour, be full and bright
Your lamp, as the wiser virgins' light!

Choose some familiar, shrine-like nook,
And offer up in prayer the night
Upon the altar of this book.

Always new earth, new heavens lie
The apocalyptic spirit nigh:

If such be yours, oh, while you can,
Bid unregretted Youth good-bye,
For morning shall proclaim you Man.

AMIEL

(THE "JOURNAL INTIME")

A FEW there are who to the troubled soul
Can lay the ear with that physician-art
Which by a whispered accent in the heart
Follows the lurking treason that hath stole
Into the citadel; — a few whose scroll
Of warning bears our safety,— is a chart
Of our unsounded seas, and doth impart
Courage to hold the spirit to its goal.

Of such is Amiel, lonely as a saint,—
Or as an eagle dwelling on peaks, in shade
Of clouds, which now he cleaves for one wide look
At the green earth, now for a circle faint
Nearer the sun. Once more has Truth betrayed
Secrets to Sorrow not in the sibyl's book.

"THE GUEST OF THE EVENING"

(READ AT THE DINNER TO RICHARD WATSON GILDER,
ON HIS BIRTHDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1884)

GOOD actions are a fruit so ripe and rare
They bear not fingering. Let me then beware
To touch with venturous hand this curving branch,
Nor lean too heedlessly against the tree
Thus, at its prime, o'erladen heavily
With golden harvest full and sweet and stanch,—
Lest I by some rude shock, at this light hour,
Bring down the Virtues in a mellow shower.

To drop the figure, friends,—let 's be content
The guest shall fancy less than we have meant;
Speak not too closely of his special good,
That we are here tells more than trumpets could.
Our friendship holds his virtues as the light
Holds the hid rainbow — storm but makes them bright;
The modest veil they wear I may not raise
Lest he should blush to hear, and I to praise.

SALVINI

"DEAD is old Greece," they mourned ere yet arose
This Greek—this oak of old Achaian graft
Seed-sown where westward tempests wept and
laughed,

As now when some great gust of heaven blows
From lair levantine. How the giant grows!—
Not to lone ruin of a withered shaft,
But quaffing life in every leafy draught,—
Fathered by Storm and mothered by Repose.

Nay, doubt the Greeks are gone till, this green
crest

In splendor fallen, round the wrack shall be
Prolonged, like memories of a noble guest,
The phantom glory of the actor's day.
Then, musing on Olympus, men shall say
The myth of Jove took rise from lesser majesty.

FOR TEARS

SOME birches from the winter snow unbend,
And some lie prone the happy summer long:
Is grief but weakness? May it be, blithe friend,
The heavier burden stays but on the strong?

APPREHENSIONS

SEVEN days we sought the horizon line, elate,
Without a sea-born doubt of things to come,
Then on the eighth, upon the sill of home,
A fog, not of the sea, fell with a weight
Upon our spirits. Where was noon's rich freight
Of summer cheer, the darkness spoke of doom,
Till thoughts familiar did such dole assume
We could but cling before the coming fate.

In port — what greeting? From belovèd lips
The same "All's well!" that could not charm
our woe
Chanted an ocean litany against harm;
Our happiness swung forth from fear's eclipse.
Alas! upon a fearless friend the blow
Fell like first lightning from long-gathered storm.

BROWNING AT ASOLO

(INSCRIBED TO HIS FRIEND MRS. ARTHUR BRONSON)

THIS is the loggia Browning loved,
 High on the flank of the friendly town;
These are the hills that his keen eye roved,
 The green like a cataract leaping down
 To the plain that his pen gave new renown.

There to the West what a range of blue!—
The very background Titian drew
 To his peerless Loves. O tranquil scene!
Who than thy poet fondlier knew
 The peaks and the shore and the lore between?

See! yonder 's his Venice—the valiant Spire,
 Highest one of the perfect three,
Guarding the others: the Palace choir,
The Temple flashing with opal fire—
 Bubble and foam of the sunlit sea.

Yesterday he was part of it all—

Sat here, discerning cloud from snow
In the flush of the Alpine afterglow,
Or mused on the vineyard whose wine-stirred row
Meets in a leafy bacchanal.

Listen a moment—how oft did he!—

To the bells from Fontalto's distant tower
Leading the evening in . . . ah, me!
Here breathes the whole soul of Italy
As one rose breathes with the breath of the bower.

Sighs were meant for an hour like this

When joy is keen as a thrust of pain.
Do you wonder the poet's heart should miss
This touch of rapture in Nature's kiss
And dream of Asolo ever again?

"Part of it yesterday," we moan?

Nay, he is part of it now, no fear.
What most we love we are that alone.
His body lies under the Minster stone,
But the love of the warm heart lingers here.

"LA MURA," ASOLO, June 3, 1892.

AT SEA

SOME things are undivined except by love —
Vague to the mind, but real to the heart,
As is the point of yon horizon line
Nearest the dear one on a foreign shore.

MOODS OF THE SOUL

I.—IN TIME OF VICTORY

As soldiers after fight confess
The fear their valor would not own
When, ere the battle's thunder stress,
The silence made its mightier moan:

Though now the victory be mine,
'T is of the conflict I must speak,
Still wondering how the Hand Divine
Confounds the mighty with the weak.

To-morrow I may flaunt the foe —
Not now; for in the echoing beat
Of fleeing heart-throbs well I know
The bitterness of near defeat.

O friends! who see but steadfast deeds,
Have grace of pity with your praise.
Crown if you must, but crown with weeds,—
The conquered more deserve your bays.

No, praise the dead! — the ancestral roll
That down their line new courage send,
For moments when against the soul
All hell and half of heaven contend.

II.— IN TIME OF DEFEAT

YES, here is undisguised defeat —
You say, “ No further fight to lose.”
With colors in the dust, 't is meet
That tears should flow and looks accuse.

I echo every word of ruth
Or blame: yet have I lost the right
To praise with you the unfaltering Truth,
Whose power — save in me — has might?

Another day, another man:
I am not *now* what I have been;
Each grain that through the hour-glass ran
Rescued the sinner from his sin.

The Future is my constant friend;
Above all children born to her
Alike her rich affections bend —
She, the unchiding comforter.

Perhaps on her unsullied scroll
(Who knows?) there may be writ at last
A fairer record of the soul
For this dark blot upon the Past.

TO LEONORA

(AT HER DÉBUT, OCTOBER 18, 1891)

FAIR sister of the Muses, 't is the hour,
Dearest of all, when thou dost wed thy Art.
No bride more radiant a more single heart
Gave to her chosen — and what noble dower!
Graces akin to forest and to flower;
A spirit blithe as dawn; a soul astart;
A nature rich, to keep thee what thou art —
A star of beauty and a flame of power.

Now, while the trancèd throng turn each to each
Sharing their joy, think'st thou on those young years
When many a day and night was unbeguiled
Save by this love that lightened toil and tears?
Thy music melts upon the verge of speech;
Fame greets the artist — I, the constant child.

HERBERT MAPES

(DROWNED AUGUST 23, 1891)

LAST night, what kingdom on his brow!
What mellow music in his voice!
What strength to make the eye rejoice!
What life! what flush of youth! . . . and now!

O brow dethroned! O muffled bell
Of speech! O net too loosely wove!
O sunken freight of hope and love!
Come back till we have said farewell!

A WISH FOR NEW FRANCE

(FRAGMENT)

FOR her no backward look
Into the bloody book
Of kings. Thrice-rescued land!
Her haunted graves bespeak
A nobler fate: to seek

In service of the world again the world's command.

She, in whose skies of peace
Arise new auguries
To strengthen, cheer, and guide —
When nations in a horde
Draw the unhallowed sword,
O Memory, walk a warning specter at her side!

DIVIDED HONORS *

NATURE had late a strife with Art
To prove which bears the worthier part
In poets' fame. The words ran high
While Justice, friend to both, stood by
To name the victor.

Nature rose,
Impressive in her artless pose,
And in a few words fitly chose
(Confined to generalities)
Pleaded the *nature* of the thing —
That singers born to sing *must sing*,
That it could not be otherwise;
Spoke of the poet's "flight of wing,"
His "flow of song," his "zephyr sighs,"
And hid in trope and allegory
A whole campaign of *a priori*.

Then Art began to plead *her* cause;
Said Nature's windy words had flaws —

* Written for the dinner to James Whitcomb Riley at Indianapolis, October 18, 1888.

That e'en the larklet soaring high
Must surely once have *learned* to fly
And eke to sing. Moreover, Song
Is something more than baby-prattle;
Or plow-boy's carol to the cattle;
Or love's acrostic — though it be
Faultless (at one extremity);
Or verse that school-girls spoil a day for,
Found good to print, but not to pay for.
This well she with herself debated,
And, lacking points, elaborated,
And, like a lawyer closely pressed,
Naught having proved, assumed the rest.

But Justice, knowing how to prick
The airy globes of rhetoric,
Said, " Friends, your theories are ample,
Yet light upon the case we need,
And, *me judice*, she 'll succeed
Who shall present the best example."

A moment both were still as death,
Then shouted " Shakespeare! " in a breath;

And then, confounded by each other
(While pondering moderated pother),
Ran down the list of English charmers,
As in a fugue of two performers:
'T was "Chaucer!" "Philip Sidney!" "Donne!"
"George Herbert!" "Milton!" "Tennyson!"
And, quick as either one would name them,
The other would be sure to claim them! —
Till Justice — blindfold all these years
Because she can't believe her eyes —
Convinced that hearing, too, belies,
Now pulled her bandage o'er her ears.
Then Nature, in affected candor,
Renounced all ownership in Landor,
And said: "Let's both make fair returns;
I'll give you Keats — you give me Burns."
"No, no," said Art, "you *have* a fit man,—
Your whole contention lies in Whitman."
Then, she not wanting from her rival
A gift of what was hers by right,
At once there followed a revival
Of acrimony — till in fright
Pale Justice, with a sly suggestion
Of dining, moved the previous question.

But Nature, conscious of her force,
 Had in reserve a shrewd resource,
 And, while the judgment hung uncertain,
 She quickly drew aside a curtain,
 And, full of confidence, said dryly:
 "I rest my case on Whitcomb Riley!
 And further to enforce my right,
 He has consented to recite,
 That all may see by how large part
 He has possession of my heart."

.

Five minutes! and the wager's o'er:
 A ballad, homely, simple, true —
 And then, and ever after, you
 See Nature as you'd ne'er before.
 First is the kind eye's twinkling ray
 So lit with human sympathy
 That, kindled by its flash, you say
 Humor's the true democracy.
 The next note's deeper — there's no guile
 Mixed with the shrewdness of that smile
 That breaks from sadness into joy —
 The man's glad memory of the boy.

Then tears, ah! they are Nature's rain,
The tears of love and death and grief
And rapture — the divine relief
That gives us back the sun again.

.

No more need Nature nurse her fears,
For look! e'en Art herself 's in tears,
And in the general acclaim
The jade has nigh forgot her name.
Yet has she left one arrow more,
And, proudly rising to the floor,
"Not yet," she says, "for what you take
For Nature's work is mine, who make
Jewels of stones that else would lie
Unnoticed 'neath the searching sky.
Receive the secret — mine your tears:
He's been my pupil fifteen years!"

Then Justice said: "Since there's no winner,
'T is fair the two should pay a dinner;
Nature shall furnish, Art prepare it,
And Riley, and his friends, shall share it."

A TRACER FOR J*** B*****

I

DEAR ENGLISH COUSINS: We have lost —
And crave your help to find him —
A farmer-poet, ocean-tossed,
With no address behind him.

Yes, though of song he write no stave,
We yet will call him poet:
His lines, as wave with following wave,
Make rhythm and never know it.

His pages grow rare fruits of thought,
Rare fruits of toil his furrows;
His name? Why hide it when you 've caught
The rhyme I seek? — John Burroughs.

I doubt if in the London round
His eager feet will loiter,
While hedge and copse of Kentish ground
Are left to reconnoiter.

There he 'll compare, in lulls of rain,
Your thrushes with our cat-bird,
And quiz the lads in every lane
For news of this or that bird.

Him leaners over Stratford gates
Shall mark, by Avon strolling.
A poacher? Ay, but on estates
Not near their vision rolling.

When Shakespeare tribute he has brought
Across the loyal ocean,
He 'll seek some haunt that Wordsworth sought
To pay his next devotion.

His "next"—ah! rather say his *first*,
Since friend is more than sovereign;
Of poets be the truth rehearsed:
To reign is not to govern.

To him the moor shall not be lone,
Nor any footstep idle
Where Nature hoards each lingering tone
Of the human voice of Rydal.

By poets led, he will not grope,
But be, from Kent to Cumberland,
At home as on his Hudson slope
Or Rip Van Winkle's slumberland.

II

How shall you know him? — by what word,
What shibboleth, what mole-ridge? —
Him who will find an English bird
Just by a line of Coleridge?

Of outward mark the quickest test
Is that he wears the shading
That sober Autumn loves the best —
Soft gray through iron fading.

Tinged, too, are beard and hair; and keen
His eye, but warm and witty;
A rustic strength is in his mien,
Made mild by love and pity.

A man of grave, of jolly moods,
That with the world has kept tune —
You 'd call him Druid in the woods,
And in the billows Neptune.

Another sign that will not fail:
Where'er he chance to tarry,—
In copse, or glen, or velvet vale,
Or where the streamlets marry,

Or on the peaks whose shadows spread
O'er Grasmere's level reaches,—
You 'll note shy shakings of his head
Before his Saxon speeches.

III

Alas me! by how poor facts and few
A stranger may detect us,
While friends may never find the clew,
Though keenly they inspect us.

Of things that make the *man* — alack!

I've hardly even hinted;

We speak of them — behind his back,

But here? — this might be printed.

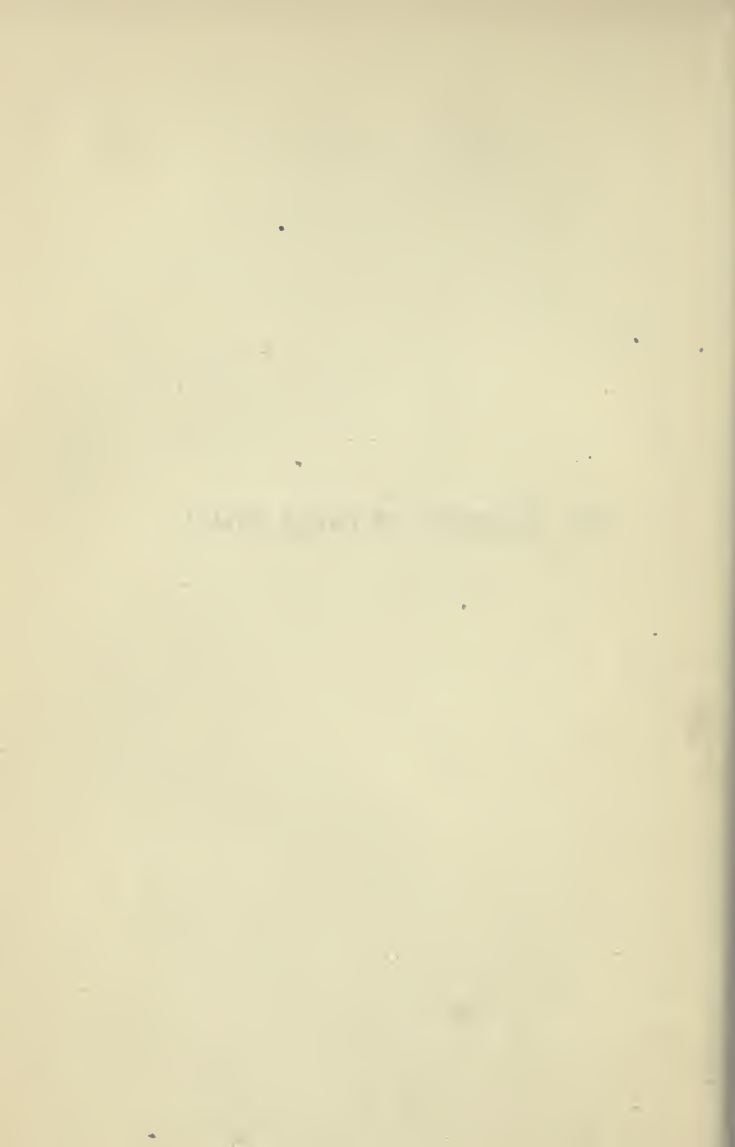
Still . . . he'd not know the portrait his —

His modesty so blinds him —

But no! . . . to learn what Burroughs *is*

Shall be his fee who finds him.

TO MAURICE FRANCIS EGAN



II

SONGS OF LIBERTY

AND OTHER POEMS



APOSTROPHE TO GREECE *

FROM THE PARTHENON

(INSCRIBED TO THE GREEK PEOPLE ON THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE)

I

O LAND of sage and stoic —
Of human deeds heroic,
Of heroes' deeds divine!
What braggart of the nations
Shall scorn thy proud narrations —

Thou who hast named the stars from thy Olympian line!

* This ode, begun on the steps of the Parthenon in 1886, was published in the New York "Independent" of April, 1896, and, in part, in modern Greek in the "Hellas," a record of the Olympic Games of that year.

In spite of Moslem crime
Thou livest! Hungry Time
Can but the dead devour.
Though asphodel hath strewed
This marble solitude,
The silence thrills with life, the ruins rise in power.

Yon sea's imperial vastness
Was once thy friend and fastness;
By many a curving strand,
'Twixt purple capes, on edges
Of seaward-looking ledges,
Rose the white cities sown by thy adventurous hand.

Nor couldst thou think of these
As lonely colonies
Wherewith rich Corinth lined
The West, while Dorian sails
Outrode Ægean gales;
Nay, suburbs were they all, molds of Athenian mind.

Then could thy galleys pass
From Tyre to Acragas,
By Grecian islands gray
That dreamed of Athens' brow,
And gaily to the prow
Harnessed the pawing winds to seek some Attic bay.

Here to Athene's feast,
From West, from North, from East —
Through Jason's fabled strait
Or round Malea's rock —
The homesick sails would flock,
Oft with an Odyssey of peril to relate.

And what exultant stir
When the swart islander,
Bound for the festal week,
First saw Colonna's crest
Give back the glowing West
Far past Ægina's shore and her prophetic peak!

I hear his cheery cries
Though Time between us lies
More wide than sea and land.
The gladness that he brings
Thrills in the song he sings,
Beaching his welcome craft on Phaleron's level strand.

O harbor of delight!
Strike the torn sail — to-night
On Attic soil again!
When joy is free to slaves
What though the swarming waves
Follow each other down like the generations of men!

Now, for a time, to war
And private hate a bar
 Of sacred armistice;
Even in the under-world
Shall the rough winds be furled
That tell of wranglingshades that crowd the courts of Dis.

'T is Peace shall bring the green
For Merit's brow. What scene,
 O Athens, shall be thine!
Till from Parnassus' height
Phœbus' reluctant light
Lingers along Hymettus' fair and lofty line.

With dance and song and game
And oratory's flame
 Shall Hellas beat and swell,
Till, olive-crowned, in pride
The envied victors ride,
Fellows to those whose fame the prancing marbles tell.

O antique time and style,
Return to us awhile
 Bright as thy happy skies!
Silent the sounds that mar:
 Like music heard afar
The harmony endures while all the discord dies.

Not yet the cloister-shade
Fell on a world afraid,
Morbid, morose — the alloy
Found greater than the gold
Of life. Like Nature old

Thou still didst sing and show the sanity of joy.

Thine is that wisdom yet
That Age from Youth must get,
Age pay to Youth in kind.

Oh, teach our anxious days
Through thy serener ways

How by the happy heart to keep the unclouded mind.

II

BUT thou wert Freedom's too
As well as Joy's. She drew
From every mountain breast
An air that could endure
No foreign foe — so pure

That Lycabettus neighbors the Corinthian crest.

Nor was thy love of life
For thee alone. Thy strife
Was for the race, no less.

Thee, to whom wrong is done
While wrong confronts the sun,

The oppressor cannot crush, nor teach thee to oppress.

By thee for lands benighted
Was Freedom's beacon lighted
That now enstars the earth.
Welcome the people's hour!
Passed is the monarch's power,
Dread waits not on his death that trembled at his birth.

As down a craggy steep
Albanian torrents leap
Impetuous to the sea —
Such was thy ancient spirit,
Still thine. Who that inherit
Hatred of tyranny inherit not from thee?

Look to the West and see
Thy daughter, Italy —
Fathered by Neptune bold
On Cumæ's sheltered strand
(Forgot but for the hand
That saved to Art her sibyl many-named and old);

That temple-sated soil,
Whose altar-smoke would coil
To hide the Avernian steep,
Grows the same harvest now —
Best increase of the plow,
Fair Freedom, of thy seed, sown for the world to reap.

Though regal Rome display
The triumphs of her day;
Though Florence, laurel-hung,
Tell how she held the van
In the slow march of man —

Greek was the path they trod, Greek was the song they sung.

Look farther west and there
Behold thy later heir,
Child of thy Jove-like mind —
Fair France. How hath she kept
The watch while others slept?

Hath Wisdom hastened on while Justice lagged behind?

Like thee, full well she knows
Through what maternal throes
New forms from olden come;
Her arts, her temples, speak
A glory that is Greek,

And filially her heart turns to the ancestral home.

For her no backward look
Into the bloody book
Of kings. Thrice-rescued land!
Her furrowed graves bespeak
A nobler fate: to seek

In service of the world again the world's command.

She in whose skies of peace
Arise new auguries
To strengthen, cheer, and guide —
When nations in a horde
Draw the unhallowed sword,
O Memory, walk, a warning specter, at her side!

Among thy debtor lands,
See, grateful England stands;
Who at thy ranging feet
Learned how to carry Law
Into the jungle's maw,
And tempers unto Man or cold or desert heat.

All that thou daredst she dares
Till now thy name she bears —
Mother of Colonies.
What if thy glorious Past
She should restore at last,
And clothe in new renown the dream of Pericles!

If she but lean to thee
Once more thy North shall be
Uplifted from the dust.
Mother of noble men,
Thy friends of sword and pen,
England, though slow to justice, shall again be just.

And now from our new land
Beyond two seas, a hand!
Our world, for ages dumb,
Part of thy fable-lore,
Gathers upon her shore
Each dying race as soil for one chief race to come.
But of our beating heart
Thy pulse how large a part!
Our wider sky but bounds
Another Grecian dawn.
Lament not what is gone;
Pentelicus grieves not, for Fame hath healed his wounds.

III

THEN, Hellas! scorn the sneer
Of kings who will not hear
Their people's moaning voice,
More deaf than shore to sea!
The world hath need of thee —
The world thou still canst teach to reason and rejoice.
Yes, need of thee while Art
Of life is but a part —
Plaything or luxury.
Greek soil perchance may show
Where Art's hid stream doth flow —
To rise, a new Alpheus, near another sea.

Yes, need of thee while Gold
Makes timid traitors bold
To lay republics low;
Not ignorant nor poor
Spread for their feet the lure —
The kind, the loved, the honored, aim the brutal blow.

Yes, need of thee while Earth
Each day shows Heaven a girth
Of want and misery;
Wherein there is not found
Beyond thy happy bound
A people brave, sane, temperate, thrifty, chaste, and free.

Then, though by faction's blunder,
And boasts, of mimic thunder,
Again thou art betrayed,
Vain this, vain every treason;
With thee are Hope and Reason,
Nor Past can be forgot, nor Future long delayed.

Troy was, but Athens is —
The World's and Liberty's,
Nor ever less shall be!
Though fallen are old fanes
The vestal fire remains
Bright with the light serene of immortality.

SONG OF THE MODERN GREEKS

LIBERTY, beloved of Hellas,
Lend us once again thy sword;
Turn thy glorious eyes that tell us
Thou art still to be adored.

Hail thee, spirit! hover over
Salamis and Marathon,
Till each corse that called thee lover
Rise with thee to lead us on.

Slumbered Hellas long in sadness,
Waiting thee to call her forth;
Hushed the very cradle's gladness
By the tyrant of the North.

Long she dwelt with buried heroes
In the fame of other years;
But against a horde of Neros
What availed or pride or tears?

Then at last thy summons called us,
And as one we followed thee,
Till the rusted chains that thrall'd us
Fell, and Greece once more was free.

Ah, but while our kin are weeping
Over sea and over land,
Let us not again be sleeping,
Wake us with thy warning hand.

Though the Moslem swarm to slay us,
Though false friends, within, without —
Kings or cowards — shall betray us,
If thou lead us, who shall doubt?

Greece's blood made many an altar
For the nations then unborn;
Will they with her peril palter —
Give her gratitude, or scorn?

Oh, could Earth and Time assemble
All thy legions, Liberty,
At their tread the world would tremble
With the passion to be free.

TO THE HOUSATONIC AT STOCKBRIDGE

CONTENTED river! in thy dreamy realm —
The cloudy willow and the plummy elm:
They call thee English, thinking thus to mate
Their musing streams that, oft with pause sedate,
Linger through misty meadows for a glance
At haunted tower or turret of romance.
Beware their praise who rashly would deny
To our New World its true tranquillity.
Our "New World"? Nay, say rather to our Old
(Let truth and freedom make us doubly bold);
Tell them: A thousand silent years before
Their sea-born isle — at every virgin shore
Dripping like Aphrodite's tresses — rose,
Here, 'neath her purple veil, deep slept Repose,
To be awakened but by wail of war.
About thy cradle under yonder hill,
Before thou knewest bridge, or dam, or mill,
Soft winds of starlight whispered heavenly lore,
Which, like our childhood's, all the workday toil
Cannot efface, nor long its beauty soil.
Thou hast grown human laboring with men
At wheel and spindle; sorrow thou dost ken;

Yet dost thou still the unshaken stars behold,
Calm to their calm returning, as of old.
Thus, like a gentle nature that grows strong
In meditation for the strife with wrong,
Thou show'st the peace that only tumult can;
Surely, serener river never ran.

Thou beautiful! From every dreamy hill
What eye but wanders with thee at thy will,
Imagining thy silver course unseen
Convoyed by two attendant streams of green
In bending lines,— like half-expected swerves
Of swaying music, or those perfect curves
We call the robin; making harmony
With many a new-found treasure of the eye:
With meadows, marging smoothly rounded hills
Where Nature teemingly the myth fulfils
Of many-breasted Plenty; with the blue,
That to the zenith fades through triple hue,
Pledge of the constant day; with clouds of white,
That haunt horizons with their blooms of light,
And when the east with rosy eve is glowing
Seem like full cheeks of zephyrs gently blowing.

Contented river! and yet over-shy
To mask thy beauty from the eager eye;

Hast thou a thought to hide from field and town?
In some deep current of the sunlit brown
Art thou disquieted — still discontent
With praise from thy Homeric bard, who lent
The world the placidness thou gavest him?
Thee Bryant loved when life was at its brim;
And when the wine was falling, in thy wood
Of sturdy willows like a Druid stood.
Oh, for his touch on this o'er-throbbing time,
His hand upon the hectic brow of Rhyme,
Cooling its fevered passion to a pace
To lead, to stir, to reinspire the race!

.
Ah! there 's a restive ripple, and the swift
Red leaves — September's firstlings — faster drift;
Betwixt twin aisles of prayer they seem to pass
(One green, one greenly mirrored in thy glass).
Wouldst thou away, dear stream? Come, whisper near!
I also of much resting have a fear:
Let me to-morrow thy companion be
By fall and shallow to the adventurous sea!

FAREWELL TO ITALY

WE lingered at Domo d'Ossola—
Like a last, reluctant guest—
Where the gray-green tide of Italy
Flows up to a snowy crest.

The world from that Alpine shoulder
Yearns toward the Lombard plain—
The hearts that come, with rapture,
The hearts that go, with pain.

Afar were the frets of Milan;
Below, the enchanted lakes;
And—*was* it the mist of the evening,
Or the mist that the memory makes?

We gave to the pale horizon
The Naples that evening gives;
We reckoned where Rome lies buried,
And we felt where Florence lives.

And as Hope bends low at parting
For a death-remembered tone,
We searched the land that Beauty
And Love have made their own.

We would take of her hair some ringlet,
Some keepsake from her breast,
And catch of her plaintive music
The strain that is tenderest.

So we strolled in the yellow gloaming
(Our speech with musing still)
Till the noise of the militant village
Fell faint on Calvary Hill.

And scarcely our mood was broken
Of near-impending loss
To find at the bend of the pathway
A station of the Cross.

And up through the green aisle climbing
(Each shrine like a counted bead),
We heard from above the swaying
And mystical chant of the creed.

Then the dead seemed the only living,
And the real seemed the wraith,

And we yielded ourselves to the vision
We saw with the eye of Faith.

Then she said, "Let us go no farther:
'T is fit that we make farewell
While forest and lake and mountain
Are under the vesper spell."

As we rested, the leafy silence
Broke like a cloud at play,
And a browned and burdened woman
Passed, singing, down the way.

'T was a song of health and labor,—
Of childlike gladness, blent
With the patience of the toiler
That tyrants call content.

"Nay, this is the word we have waited,"
I said, "that a year and a sea
From now, in our doom of exile,
Shall echo of Italy."

Just then what a burst from the bosquet—
As a bird might have found its soul!
And each by the halt of the heart-throb
Knew 't was the rossignol.

Then we drew to each other nearer
And drank at the gray wall's verge
The sad, sweet song of lovers,—
Their passion and their dirge.

And the carol of Toil below us
And the pæan of Prayer above
Were naught to the song of Sorrow,
For under the sorrow was Love.

.
Alas! for the dear remembrance
We chose for an amulet:
The one that is left to keep it—
Ah! how can he forget?

A CHOPIN FANTASY


ON REMEMBRANCE OF A PRÉLUDE

COME, love, sit here and let us leave awhile
This custom-laden world for warmer lands
Where, 'neath the silken net of afternoon,
Leisure is duty and dread care a dream.

(The music begins)

That cliff 's Minorca, that horizon Spain.
There in the west, like fragrance visible,
Rises the soft light as the sun goes down
Till half the sky is palpitant with gold.
Follow it eastward to the gentle blue,
With faith and childhood in it, and the peace
Men agonize and roam for. See that fleet
That flutters in the breeze from the Camargue
Like white doves, huddled now, now scattering.
(They say all native boats are homeward bound
Against to-morrow's annual festival.)
What rest there is in looking from this height

On palms and olives, and the easy steps
By which the terrace clammers yonder hill!
How dark those hollows whence the roads of white
Ascend in angles to the high-perched town!
Needless the music of the convent bell:
'T is vespers in the heart as in the air.
This is the hour for love, that, like the breath
Of yonder orange, sweetest is at eve.
Here, safe entwined, what could be wished for two
Hid in an island hidden in the sea?
Now let me lay my head upon your lap,
And place your rose-leaf fingers on my lids,
Lest, catching glimpse of your resplendent eyes,
My ardor should blaspheme the coming stars!

.
How fast it darkens! One must needs be blind
To know the twilight softness of your voice.
And Love,—not blind, but with a curtained sight,—
Like one who dwells with Sorrow, can discern 
The shading of a shadow in a tone.
There's something troubles you, my sweet-of-hearts:
A hesitance in that caressing word;
Nothing unhappy — a presentiment
Such as from far might thrill the under-depths
Of some still tranquil lake before a storm.
Be happy, love, not ponder happiness.

Unerringly I know your woman's soul,
Content to have your happiness put off
Like well-planned feast against to-morrow's need,
And more enjoyed in planning than in use.
But oh, we men, God made us — what was that?
A drop upon your hand? Perhaps a tear
Lost by an angel who remembers yet
Some perfect moment of th' imperfect world,
And goes reluctantly her way to heaven,
Still envious of our lot? Another drop!
Why, 't is the rain. Stand here and see that sky —
Blackness intense as sunlight. What a chasm
Of silver where that lightning tore its way!
That crash was nearer! Here's our shelter —
quick!

Now it's upon us! Half a breath, and — there!
No wonder you should tremble when the earth
Sways thus and all the firmament's a-reel.
Tremble, but fear not — Love created Fear
To drive men back to Love, where you are now.
What rhythmic terror in the tideless sea
That wildly seeks the refuge of the rocks
From unknown dangers (dangers known are none)!
God! did you see within the headlands' jaws
That drifting sail? Wait the next flash and — look!
Oh, heaven! to cruise about a hundred coasts,

Safe past the fabled monsters of the deep,
To break supinely on familiar shoals
Where one in childhood dug a mimic grave!

Thank God for those few, momentary stars,
And that slow-lifting zone of topaz light,
Like parting guest returning with a smile.
We care not now that the insatiate storm
Plunges with leaps of thunder on the east.

(The music ceases)

Give me thy hand, dear one, though unto pain
I crush it to be sure that this be dream,
Knowing 't was Death that passed, and oh, how
near!

IN TESLA'S LABORATORY

HERE in the dark what ghostly figures press! —
No phantom of the Past, or grim or sad;
No wailing spirit of woe; no specter, clad
In white and wandering cloud, whose dumb distress
Is that its crime it never may confess;
No shape from the strewn sea; nor they that add
The link of Life and Death,— the tearless mad,
That live nor die in dreary nothingness:

But blessed spirits waiting to be born —
Thoughts to unlock the fettering chains of Things;
The Better Time; the Universal Good.
Their smile is like the joyous break of morn;
How fair, how near, how wistfully they brood!
Listen! that murmur is of angels' wings.

THE WISTFUL DAYS

WHAT is there wanting in the Spring?
The air is soft as yesteryear;
The happy-nested green is here,
And half the world is on the wing.
The morning beckons, and like balm
Are westward waters blue and calm.
Yet something 's wanting in the Spring.

What is it wanting in the Spring?
O April, lover to us all,
What is so poignant in thy thrall
When children's merry voices ring?
What haunts us in the cooing dove
More subtle than the speech of Love,
What nameless lack or loss of Spring?

Let Youth go dally with the Spring,
Call her the dear, the fair, the young;
And all her graces ever sung
Let him, once more rehearsing, sing.
They know, who keep a broken tryst,
Till something from the Spring be missed
We have not truly known the Spring.

"LOVE ONCE WAS LIKE AN APRIL DAWN"

Love once was like an April dawn:
Song throbbed within the heart by rote
And every tint of rose or fawn
Was greeted by a joyous note.
How eager was my thought to see
Into that morning mystery!

Love now is like an August noon,
No spot is empty of its shine;
The sun makes silence seem a boon,
And not a voice so dumb as mine.
Yet with what words I'd welcome thee —
Couldst thou return, dear mystery!

AN IRISH LOVE-SONG

IN the years about twenty
 (When kisses are plenty)
The love of an Irish lass fell to my fate —
 So winsome and sightly,
 So saucy and sprightly,
The priest was a prophet that christened her Kate.

Soft gray of the dawning,
Bright blue of the morning,
The sweet of her eye there was nothing to mate;
 A nose like a fairy's,
 A cheek like a cherry's,
And a smile—well, her smile was like—nothing but Kate.

To see her was passion,
To love her, the fashion;
What wonder my heart was unwilling to wait!
 And, daring to love her,
 I soon did discover
A Katharine masking as mischievous Kate.

No Katy unruly,
But Katharine, truly —
Fond, serious, patient, and even sedate;
With a glow in her gladness
That banishes sadness —
Yet stay! Should I credit the sunshine to *Kate*?

Love cannot outlive it,
Wealth cannot o'ergive it —
That saucy surrender she made at the gate.
O Time, be but human,
Spare the girl in the woman!
You gave me my Katharine — leave me my Kate!

"OH, WASTE NO TEARS"

OH, waste no tears on Pain or Fate,
Nor yet at Sorrow's dire demand;
Think not to drown Regret with weight
Of weeping, as the sea the strand;
When was Death's victory less elate
That Grief o'er-sobbed his grasping hand?

Not for the flaws of life shall fall
The tear most exquisite — ah, no;
But for its fine perfections all:
For morning's joyous overflow,
For sunset's fleeting festival,
And what midwinter moons may show;

For wild-rose breath of Keats's line;
For Titian's rivalry of June;
For Chopin's tender notes that twine
The sense in one autumnal tune;
For Brunelleschi's dome divine,
In wonder planned, with worship hewn.

Save them for heroes — not their blood,
But for the generous vow it sealed;
For babes, when mothers say, "This bud
Will be the blossom of the field";
For women, when to Vengeance' flood
They hold for Guilt a stainless shield.

And when two hearts have closer come,
Through doubts and mysteries and fears,
Till in one look's delirium
At last the happy truth appears,
When words are weak and music dumb
Then perfect love shall speak in tears.

HER SMILE

THE odor is the rose;
The smile, the woman.
Delights the bud doth sheathe,
Unfolded, all may breathe.
So joys that none could know
Her smiles on all bestow,
As though a rose were happy to be human!

SONG FOR THE GUITAR

I GRIEVE to see these tears —
Long strangers to thine eye —
These jewels that fond years
For me could never buy.
Weep, weep, and give thy heart relief.
I grieve, but 't is not for thy grief:

Not for these tears — they were
Another's ere they fell —
But those that never stir
The fountain where they dwell.
I 'd smile, though thou shouldst weep a sea,
Were but a single tear for me!

URSULA

I SEE her in the festal warmth to-night,
Her rest all grace, her motion all delight.
Endowed with all the woman's arts that please,
In her soft gown she seems a thing of ease,
Whom sorrow may not reach or evil blight.

To-morrow she will toil from floor to floor
To smile upon the unreplying poor,
To stay the tears of widows, and to be
Confessor to men's erring hearts . . . ah me!
She knows not I am beggar at her door.

A DARK DAY

GLOOM of a leaden sky
Too heavy for hope to move;
Grief in my heart to vie
With the dark distress above;
Yet happy, happy am I —
For I sorrow with her I love.

THE SURPRISED AVOWAL

WHEN one word is spoken,
When one look you see,
When you take the token,
Howe'er so slight it be,
The cage's bolt is broken,
The happy bird is free.

There is no unsaying
That love-startled word;
It were idle praying
It no more be heard;
Yet, its law obeying,
Who shall blame the bird?

What avails the mending
Where the cage was weak?
What avails the sending
Far, the bird to seek,
When every cloud is lending
Wings toward yonder peak?

Thrush, could they recapture
You to newer wrong,
How could you adapt your
Strain to suit the throng?
Gone would be the rapture
Of unimprisoned song.

THE BLOSSOM OF THE SOUL

THOU half-unfolded flower
With fragrance-laden heart,
What is the secret power
That doth thy petals part?
What gave thee most thy hue —
The sunshine, or the dew?

Thou wonder-wakened soul!
As Dawn doth steal on Night
On thee soft Love hath stole.
Thine eye, that blooms with light,
What makes its charm so new —
Its sunshine, or its dew?

"I JOURNEYED SOUTH TO MEET THE
SPRING "

I JOURNEYED South to meet the Spring,
To feel the soft tide's gentle rise
That to my heart again should bring,
Foretold by many a whispering wing,
The old, the new, the sweet surprise.

For once, the wonder was not new —
And yet it wore a newer grace:
For all its innocence of hue,
Its warmth and bloom and dream and dew,
I had but left — in Helen's face.

PARAPHRASES FROM THE SERVIAN
OF
ZMAI IOVAN IOVANOVICH
AFTER LITERAL TRANSLATIONS
BY
NIKOLA TESLA

THE JOURNAL OF THE

ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Volume 10. Part 1. 1900.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

BY

MR. TESLA

ZMAI IOVAN IOVANOVICH

THE CHIEF SERVIAN POET OF TO-DAY

HARDLY is there a nation which has met with a sadder fate than the Servian. From the height of its splendor, when the empire embraced almost the entire northern part of the Balkan peninsula and a large portion of the territory now belonging to Austria, the Servian nation was plunged into abject slavery, after the fatal battle of 1389 at the Kosovo Polje, against the overwhelming Asiatic hordes. Europe can never repay the great debt it owes to the Servians for checking, by the sacrifice of their own liberty, that barbarian influx. The Poles at Vienna, under Sobieski, finished what the Servians attempted, and were similarly rewarded for their service to civilization.

It was at the Kosovo Polje that Milosh Obilich, the noblest of Servian heroes, fell, after killing the Sultan Murat II. in the very midst of his great army. Were it not that it is an historical fact, one would be apt to consider this episode a myth, evolved by contact with the Greek and Latin races. For in Milosh we see both

Leonidas and Mucius, and, more than this, a martyr, for he does not die an easy death on the battle-field like the Greek, but pays for his daring deed with a death of fearful torture. It is not astonishing that the poetry of a nation capable of producing such heroes should be pervaded with a spirit of nobility and chivalry. Even the indomitable Marko Kraljevic, the later incarnation of Servian heroism, when vanquishing Musa, the Moslem chief, exclaims, "Woe unto me, for I have killed a better man than myself!"

From that fatal battle until a recent period, it has been black night for the Servians, with but a single star in the firmament — Montenegro. In this gloom there was no hope for science, commerce, art, or industry. What could they do, this brave people, save to keep up the weary fight against the oppressor? And this they did unceasingly, though the odds were twenty to one. Yet fighting merely satisfied their wilder instincts. There was one more thing they could do, and did: the noble feats of their ancestors, the brave deeds of those who fell in the struggle for liberty, they embodied in immortal song. Thus circumstances and innate qualities made the Servians a nation of thinkers and poets, and thus, gradually, were evolved their magnificent national poems, which were first collected by their most prolific writer, Vuk Stefanovich Karajich, who also compiled the first dictionary of the Servian tongue, containing more than sixty thousand words. These national poems Goethe considered fit to match the finest productions of the Greeks and Romans. What would he have thought of them had he been a Servian?

While the Servians have been distinguished in national

poetry, they have also had many individual poets who attained greatness. Of contemporaries there is none who has grown so dear to the younger generation as Zmai Iovan Iovanovich. (He was born in Novi Sad (Neusatz), a city at the southern border of Hungary, on November 24, 1833. He comes from an old and noble family, which is related to the Servian royal house.) In his earliest childhood he showed a great desire to learn by heart the Servian national songs which were recited to him, and even as a child he began to compose poems. His father, who was a highly cultivated and wealthy gentleman, gave him his first education in his native city. After this he went to Budapest, Prague, and Vienna, and in these cities he finished his studies in law. This was the wish of his father, but his own inclinations prompted him to take up the study of medicine. He then returned to his native city, where a prominent official position was offered him, which he accepted; but so strong were his poetical instincts that a year later he abandoned the post to devote himself entirely to literary work.

His literary career began in 1849, his first poem being printed in 1852, in a journal called "Srbski Letopis" ("Servian Annual Review"); to this and to other journals, notably "Neven" and "Sedmica," he contributed his early productions. From that period until 1870, besides his original poems, he made many beautiful translations from Petefy and Arany, the two greatest of the Hungarian poets, and from the Russian of Lermontof, as well as from German and other poets. In 1861 he edited the comic journal, "Komarac" ("The Mosquito"), and in the same year he started the literary

journal, "Javor," and to these papers he contributed many beautiful poems. In 1861 he married, and during the few happy years that followed he produced his admirable series of lyrical poems called "Giulich," which probably remain his masterpiece. In 1862, greatly to his regret, he discontinued his beloved journal, "Javor"—a sacrifice which was asked of him by the great Servian patriot, Miletich, who was then active on a political journal, in order to insure the success of the latter.

In 1863 he was elected director of an educational institution, called the Tekelianum, at Budapest. He now ardently renewed the study of medicine at the university, and took the degree of doctor of medicine. Meanwhile he did not relax his literary labors. Yet, for his countrymen, more valuable even than his splendid productions were his noble and unselfish efforts to nourish the enthusiasm of Servian youth. During his stay in Budapest he founded the literary society Preodnica, of which he was president, and to which he devoted a large portion of his energies.

In 1864 he started his famous satirical journal, "Zmai" ("The Dragon"), which was so popular that the name became a part of his own. In 1866 his comic play "Sharan" was given with great success. In 1872 he had the great pain of losing his wife, and, shortly after, his only child. How much these misfortunes affected him is plainly perceptible from the deeply sad tone of the poems which immediately followed. In 1873 he started another comic journal, the "Ziza." During the year 1877 he began an illustrated chronicle of the Russo-Turkish war, and in 1878 appeared his popular comic

journal, "Starmali." During all this period he wrote not only poems, but much prose, including short novels, often under an assumed name. The best of these is probably "Vidosava Brankovicheva." In recent years he has published a great many charming little poems for children.

Since 1870 Zmai has pursued his profession as a physician. He is an earnest advocate of cremation, and has devoted much time to the furtherance of that cause. Until recently he was a resident of Vienna, but now he is domiciled in Belgrade. There he lives the life of a true poet, loving all and beloved by everybody. In recognition of his merit, the nation has voted him a subvention.

The poems of Zmai are so essentially Servian that to translate them into another tongue appears next to impossible. In keen satire free from Voltarian venom, in good-hearted and spontaneous humor, in delicacy and depth of expression, they are remarkable. Mr. Johnson has undertaken the task of versifying a few of the shorter ones after my literal and inadequate readings. Close translation being often out of the question, he has had to paraphrase, following as nearly as possible the original motives and ideas. In some instances he has expanded in order to complete a picture or to add a touch of his own. The poems which follow will give some idea of the versatility of the Servian poet, but come far short of indicating his range.

NEW YORK CITY.

Nikola Tesla.

NOTE, June, 1918: Both Zmai and the hero of his ballad, Luka Filipov, have died since Mr. Tesla's lines were written.—
R. U. J.

rhymed couplets

THE THREE GIAOURS

ab (In the midst of the dark and stormy night
Feruz Pacha awakes in fright
And springs from out his curtained bed.
The candle trembles as though it read
Upon his pallid face the theme
And terror of his nightly dream.

He calls to his startled favorite:
“The keys! the keys of the dungeon-pit!
Cannot those cursèd Giaours stay
There in their own dark, rotting away,
Where I gave them leave three years ago?
Had I but buried their bones! — but, no!
They come at midnight to clatter and creep,
And haunt and threaten me in my sleep.”

“Pacha, wait till the morning light!
Do not go down that fearful flight

Where every step is a dead man's moan!
Mujo to-morrow will gather each bone
And bury it deep. Let the Giaours freeze
If thy bed be warm."

"Nay, give me the keys.

Girl, you talk like a wrinkled dame
That shudders at whisper of a name.
When they were living, their curses made
A thousand cowards: was I afraid?
Now they are dead, shall my fear begin
With the Giaour's curse, or the skeleton's grin?
No, I must see them face to face
In the very midst of their dwelling-place,
And find what need they have of me
That they call my name eternally."

As groping along to the stair he goes,
The light of the shaking candle shows
A face like a white and faded rose;
But if this be fear, it is fear to stay,
For something urges him on his way —
Though the steps are cold and the echoes mock —
Till the right key screams in the rusted lock.

Ugh! what a blast from the dungeon dank! —
From the place where Hunger and Death were wed;
Whence even the snakes by instinct fled,

While the very lizards crouched and shrank
In a chill of terror. 'T is inky black
And icy cold, but he cannot go back,
For there, as though the darkness flowers —
There sit the skeletons of three Giaours
Ghost-white in the flickering candle-gleam! —
(Or is it the remnant of his dream?)
About a stone that is green with mold
They sit in a group, and their fingers hold
Full glasses, and as the glasses clink
The first Giaour beckons him to drink.

“ Pacha, here is a glass for thee!

When last on me the sunlight shone
I had a wife who was dear to me.

She was alone — no, not alone;
The blade in her hand was her comrade true,
As she came to your castle, seeking you.

“ And when she came to your castle gate
She dared you forth, but you would not go.
Fiend and coward, you could not wait

For a woman's wrath, but shot her, so.
Her heart fell down in a piteous flood.
This glass is filled with her precious blood.

“ See how fine as I hold it up!
Drink, Feruz Pacha, the brimming cup! ”

Spellbound the Pacha now draws nigh;
He empties the glass with a sudden cry:
The skeletons drink with a laugh and toss,
And they make the sign of the holy cross.

Then speaks the second of the dead:

“ When to this darkness I was led,
My mother asked, ‘ What sum will give
Your prisoner back to the sun? ’ You said,
‘ Three measures of gold, and the dog shall
live.’

Through pinching toil by noon and night
She saved and saved till her hope grew bright.

“ But when she brought you the yellow hoard,
You mocked at the drops on her tired brow,
And said, ‘ Toward the pay for his wholesome
board

Of good round stones I will this allow.’
She died while her face with toil was wet.
This glass is filled with her faithful sweat.

“ See how fine as I hold it up!
Drink, Feruz Pacha, the brimming cup! ”

Haggard the Pacha now stands by;
He drains the glass with a stifled cry:

Again they drink with a laugh and toss,
And the third one says, as his comrades cross:

“When this black shadow on me fell,
There sang within my mountain home
My one pale lad. Bethought him well
That he would to my rescue come;
But when he tried to lift the gun
He tottered till the tears would run.

“Though vengeance sped his weary feet,
Too late he came. Then back he crept,—
Forgot to drink, forgot to eat,—
And no slow moment went unwept.
He died of grief at his meager years.
This glass is laden with his tears.

“See how fine as I hold it up!
Drink, Feruz Pacha, the brimming cup!”

The Pacha staggers; he holds it high;
He drinks, he falls with a moan and cry:
(They laugh, they cross, but they drink no more—
For the dead in the dungeon-cave are four.)

dénouement

LUKA FILIPOV

(AN INCIDENT OF THE MONTENEGRIN WAR OF 1876-78)

ONE more hero to be part
Of the Servians' glory!
Lute to lute and heart to heart
Tell the homely story;
Let the Moslem hide for shame,
Trembling like the falcon's game,
Thinking on the falcon's name —
Luka Filipov.

When he fought with sword and gun
Doughty was he reckoned;
When *he* was the foremost, none
Blushed to be the second.
But he tired of the taint
Of the Turk's blood, learned restraint
From his sated sword — the quaint
Luka Filipov.

Thus he reasoned: Though they fall
 Like the grass in mowing,
 Yet the dead Turks, after all,
 Make a sorry showing.
 Foes that die remember not
 How our Montenegrins bought
 Our unbroken freedom — thought
 Luka Filipov.

So, in last year's battle-storm
 Swooped our Servian falcon,
 Chose the sleekest of the swarm
 From beyond the Balkan:
 Plucked a pacha from his horse,
 Carried him away by force,
 While we cheered along his course:
 “Luka!” “Filipov!”

To the Prince his prize he bore
 Just as he had won him —
 Laid him at the Prince's door,
 Not a scratch upon him.
 “Prince, a present! And for fear
 He should find it lonely here,
 I will fetch his mate,” said queer
 Luka Filipov.

Back into the fight he rushed
Where the Turks were flying,
Past his kinsmen boldly brushed,
Leaping dead and dying:
Seized a stalwart infidel,
Wrenched his gun and, like a spell,
Marched him back — him heeding well
Luka Filipov.

But the Moslems, catching breath
Mid their helter-skelter,
Poured upon him hail of death
From a rocky shelter,
Till a devil-guided ball
Striking one yet wounded all:
For there staggered, nigh to fall,
Luka Filipov.

Paused the conflict — all intent
On the two before us;
And the Turkish regiment
Cheered in hideous chorus
As the prisoner, half afraid,
Turned and started up the glade,
Thinking — dullard! — to evade
Luka Filipov.

We 'd have fired — but Luka's hand
 Rose in protestation,
 While his pistol's mute command
 Needed no translation;
 For the Turk retraced his track,
 Knelt and took upon his back
 (As a peddler shifts his pack)
 Luka Filipov!

How we cheered him as he passed
 Through the line, a-swinging
 Gun and pistol — bleeding fast —
 Grim — but loudly singing:
 “ Lucky me to find a steed
 Fit to give the Prince for speed!
 Rein or saddle ne'er shall need
 Luka Filipov! ”

So he urged him to the tent
 Where the Prince was resting —
 Brought his captive, shamed and spent,
 To make true his jesting.
 And as couriers came to say
 That our friends had won the day,
 Who should up and faint away?
 Luka Filipov.

A MOTHER OF BOSNIA

I

THREE sons she has of Servian mold
As balsam for her widow's grief,
While in her Danka all behold
A treasure precious past belief.

Oh, lovely Danka! happy she,
More fortunate than all beside,
To be the pride of brothers three,
Themselves of Bosnia the pride!

In her they glory; she inspires
To freedom's never-ending fight,
And in their hearts burn patriot fires,
As stars upon the Turkish night.

And often at the mother's door
Tears mingle with the words that bless:

“O gods of battle! guard my four —
My falcons and my falconess.”

II

HER radiant beauty nothing hides —
What wonder that the Turk has seen,
And as before her door he rides
The Raven-Aga calls her queen!

For three nights has he lain awake —
To call on Allah? Nay, till dawn
Calling on Danka, for whose sake
His heart is sore, his brow is wan.

He gathers warriors ere the sun;
They gallop quickly through the murk;
And Danka, at the signal-gun,
Cries, “Save me, brothers! — ’tis the Turk!”

Now flash the rifles, speeds the fight,
Till, shamed, the Raven-Aga flies.
Alas for Danka! in her sight
One lion-hearted brother dies.

.

Again the infidel appears,
And at his heels ride forty guns;
But at the voice of Danka's fears
Red many a Turkish stirrup runs.

But, oh, at vespers, when once more
The baffled Raven back has fled,
Across the sill of Danka's door
There lies another brother, dead.

.

The Turkish devil once again
Summons each savage wedding-guest,
And half a hundred to be slain
Go forth at midnight toward the west.

Once more the stealthy Moslems ride,
Once more the Servians gather fast,
As Danka summons to her side
Her brother — and her last.

The fight grows fiercer, till the dead
Fill the dim street from wall to wall.
Call on thy mother, Battle-wed —
Thou hast no brother left to call!

The Raven seizes her and croaks:
"At last thou art my bride, proud maid!"

“Not thine — my yataghan’s!” Two strokes —
Her warm heart weds the loyal blade.

III

DARK is the night as on the slopes
Of that deserted battle-ground
The mother, crazed with sorrow, gropes
Until her sons’ three swords are found.

And as she roams through Servian lands
(Her mirth more piteous than tears)
She bears a blade in her thin hands
To right the wrongs of many years.

And offering Danka’s plighted knife
Or one of those three patriot swords,
She calls the coldest rock to strife,—
“Take, and repel the Turkish hordes!”

And as the rock no word replies,
She asks, “Are you not Servian too?
Why are you silent then?” she cries;
“Is there no living heart in you?”

She treads the dreary night alone;
There is no echo to her moan. . . .
Is every heart a heart of stone?

THE MONSTER

“ IN place of the heart, a serpent;
Rage — for the mind’s command;
An eye aflame with wildness;
A weapon in the hand;

“ A brow with midnight clouded;
On the lips a cynic smile
That tells of a curse unmatched —
Born of a sin most vile.

“ Of longing, or hope, or virtue,
No vestige may there be;
You, even in vice inhuman —
What can you want of me?

“ You in its maddest moment
The Deepest Pit designed,—
Let loose to sow confusion
In the order of mankind;

“ Here Hatred found you crawling
Like vermin, groveling, prone,
Filled you with blood of others
And poisoned all your own.

“ Your very thoughts are fiendish —
Smoke of the fires of Hell.
Weird as you are, how is it
I seem to know you well?

“ Why with your wild delirium
Do you infect my sleep?
Why with my daily footstep
An equal measure keep? ”

.

The monster mutely beckons me
Back with his ghostly hand,
And dreading his fearful answer
I heed the grim command.

“ Nay, softly,” he says; “ I pray thee,
Silence thy frightened moan,
And wipe the sweat from thy forehead;
My kinsman thou, my own!

“ Look at me well, good cousin;
Such wert thou fashioned of!
Thou, too, wouldst me resemble
Without that magic — Love! ”

TWO DREAMS

DEEP on the bosom of Jeel-Begzad
 (Darling daughter of stern Bidar)
Sleeps the rose of her lover lad.

It brings this word: When the zenith-star
Melts in the full moon's rising light,
Then shall her Giaour come — to-night.

What is the odor that fills her room?

Ah! 't is the dream of the sleeping rose;
To feel his lips near its velvet bloom

In the secret shadow no moonbeam knows,
Till the maiden passion within her breast
Kindles to flame where the kisses rest.

By the stealthy fingers of old Bidar
 (Savage father of Jeel-Begzad)

Never bloodless in peace or war

Was a handjar sheathed; and each one had
Graved on its handle a Koran prayer —
He can feel it now, in his ambush there!

The moon rides pale in the quiet night;
It puts out the stars, but never the gleam
Of the waiting blade's foreboding light,
Astir in its sheath in a horrid dream
Of pain, of blood, and of gasping breath,
Of the thirst of vengeance drenched in death.

.

The dawn did the dream of the rose undo,
But the dream of the sleeping blade came true.

MYSTERIOUS LOVE

INTO the air I breathed a sigh;
 She, afar, another breathed —
Sighs that, like a butterfly,
Each went wandering low and high,
 Till the air with sighs was wreathed.

When each other long they sought,
 On a star-o'er-twinkled hill
Jasmine, trembling with the thought,
Both within her chalice caught,
 A lover's potion to distil.

Drank of this a nightingale,
 Guided by the starlight wan —
Drank and sang from dale to dale,
Till every streamlet did exhale
 Incense to the waking dawn.

Like the dawn, the maiden heard;
 While, afar, I felt the fire

In the bosom of the bird;
Forth our sighs again were stirred
With a sevenfold desire.

These we followed till we learned
Where they trysted; there ere long
Their fond nightingale returned.
Deeper then our longings burned,
Deeper the delights of song.

Now, when at the wakening hour,
Sigh to sigh, we greet his lay,
Well we know its mystic power —
Feeling dawn and bird and flower
Pouring meaning into May.

Jasmine, perfume every grove!
Nightingale, forever sing
To the brightening dawn above
Of the mystery of love
In the mystery of Spring!

THE COMING OF SONG

WHEN the sky darkened on the first great sin,
And gates that shut man out shut Hope within,
Like to the falcon when his wing is broke,
The bitter cry of mortals then awoke:
"Too heavy is our burden," groaned the two.
"Shall woes forever on our track pursue,
And nest within these empty hearts? Or, worse,
Shall we be withered by the cruel curse?
Already less than human, shall we fall
By slow succession to some animal?"

Then, filled with pity at the desperate cry,
Came from His throne of thunder the Most High:
"That you should suffer" (spake the Voice) "is just:
'T is you have chosen for a feast a crust.
But not so unrelenting I — the least.
Of all your kind shall be above the beast.
That erring mortals be not lost in fear,
Come from My shining courts, O daughter dear!

Thou dost to heaven, shalt to earth belong.
She came; she stayed: it was the Muse of Song.

Again the day was radiant with light,
And something more than stars illumed the night.
Hope, beckoning, to the desert took its flight.

Where is Pain and dire Distress,
Song shall soothe like soft caress;
Though the stoutest courage fails,
Song 's an anchor in all gales;
When all others fail to reach,
Song shall be the thrilling speech;
Love and friends and comfort fled,
Song shall linger by your bed;
And when Doubt shall question, Why?
Song shall lift you to the sky.

CURSES

FAIN would I curse thee, sweet unkind!

That thou art fair;

Fain curse my mother, that not blind

She did me bear;

But, no! — each curse would break, not bind,

The heart ye share.

A FAIRY FROM THE SUN-SHOWER

[When the Servians see the sun-rays of a summer shower they say it is the fairies combing their hair.]

OVER the meadow a shower is roaming;
Just beyond is the summer sun;
Fair is the hair that the fays are combing —
Myth come true! here 's my dainty one
Tripping the path in the wind's soft blowing;
Her slender form through her gown is showing,
Her foot scarce whispers the way she 's going.
"Come, my bright one, come, my soul,
Let my kisses be your goal."

But the path has heard my sighing,
Turns aside, and leads my fay
Into the forest, love defying.
Path, accursèd be! — but stay!
Lost to love each moment gliding,
What if in the woodland hiding
Still for me my fay be biding! . . .
"Wait, my bright one, wait, my soul,
Your sweet kisses are my goal."

"WHY," YOU ASK, "HAS NOT THE
SERVIAN PERISHED?"

FRAGMENT FROM THE "GIULICHE" ("JEWELS")

"WHY," you ask, "has not the Servian perished,
Such calamities about him throng?"

With the sword alike the lyre he cherished:

He is saved by Song!

"I BEGGED A KISS OF A LITTLE MAID"

I BEGGED a kiss of a little maid;
 Shyly, sweetly, she consented;
Then of a sudden, all afraid,
 After she gave it, she repented;
And now as penance for that one kiss
She asks a poem — I 'll give her this.

But how can my song be my very best
 When she, with a voice as soft as Circe's,
Has charmed the heart from my lonely breast —
 The heart, the fountain of all true verses?
Why, oh, why should a maid do this?
No — I must give her back her kiss.

WHY THE ARMY BECAME QUIET

SOME said they did but play at war,—
How that may be, ah! who can tell?
I know the gallant army corps
Upon their fleeing foemen fell,
And sacked their camp, and took their town,
And won both victory and renown.

Now home returning, wild with song,
They come, the colors flying free.
But as within the door they throng,
Why does the army suddenly
Hush the fierce din, and silence keep? —
Why, little brother is asleep.

THE GIPSY PRAISES HIS HORSE

YOU 'RE admiring my horse, sir, I see.

He 's so light that you 'd think it 's a bird —
Say a swallow. Ah me!

He 's a prize!

It 's absurd

To suppose you can take him all in as he passes

With the best pair of eyes,

Or the powerful aid

Of your best pair of glasses:

Take 'em off, and let 's trade.

What! “ Is Selim as good as he seems? ”

Never fear,

Uncle dear,

He 's as good as the best of your dreams,

And as sound as your sleep.

It 's only that kind that a gipsy would keep.

The emperor's stables can't furnish his mate.

But his grit and his gait,

And his wind and his ways,
A gipsy like me does n't know how to praise.
But (if truth must be told)
Although you should cover him over with gold
He 'd be worth one more sovereign still.

“ Is he old? ”

Oh, don't look at his teeth, my dear sir!

I never have seen 'em myself.

Age has nothing to do with an elf;

So it 's fair to infer

My fairy can never grow old.

Oh, don't look — (Here, my friend,

Will you do me the kindness to hold

For a moment these reins while I 'tend

To that fly on his shanks?) . . .

As I said — (Ah — now — thanks!)

The longer you drive

The better he 'll thrive.

He 'll never be laid on the shelf!

The older that colt is, the younger he 'll grow.

I 've tried him for years, and I know.

“ Eat? Eat? ” do you say?

Oh, that nag is n't nice

About eating! Whatever you have will suffice.

He takes everything raw —
Some oats or some hay,
Or a small wisp of straw,
If you have it. If not, never mind —
Selim won't even neigh.
What kind of a feeder is he? That 's the kind!

“Is he clever at jumping a fence?”
What a question to ask! He 's immense
At a leap!
How absurd!
Why, the trouble 's to keep
Such a Pegasus down to the ground.
He takes every fence at a bound
With the grace of a bird;
And so great is his strength,
And so keen is his sense,
He goes over a fence
Not across, but the way of its length!

“Under saddle?” No saddle for Selim!
Why, you 've only to mount him, and feel him
Fly level and steady, to see
What disgrace that would be.
No, you could n't more deeply insult him, unless
You attempted to guess
And pry into his pedigree.

Now why should you speak of his eyes?

Does he seem like a horse that would need

An eye-glass to add to his speed

Or, perchance, to look wise?

No, indeed.

Why, not only 's the night to that steed

Just the same as the day,

But he knows all that passes —

Both before and behind, either way.

Oh, he does n't need glasses!

“Has he any defect?” What a question, my friend!

That is why, my dear sir, I am willing to sell.

You know very well

It is only the horse that you give or you lend

That has glanders, or springhalt, or something to mend:

'T is because not a breath

Of defect or of death

Can be found on my Selim that he 's at your pleasure.

Alas! not for gipsies the care of such treasure.

And now about speed. “Is he fast?” I should say!

Just listen — I 'll tell you.

One equinox day,

Coming home from Erdout in the usual way,

A terrible storm overtook us. 'T was plain

There was nothing to do but to run for it. Rain,

Like the blackness of night, gave us chase. But that nag,
Though he 'd had a hard day, did n't tremble or sag.

Then the lightning would flash,

And the thunder would crash

With a terrible din.

They were eager to catch him; but he would just neigh,
Squint back to make sure, and then gallop away.

Well, this made the storm the more furious yet,

And we raced and we raced, but he was n't upset,

And he would n't give in!

At last when we got to the foot of the hill

At the end of the trail,

By the stream where our white gipsy castle was set,

And the boys from the camp came a-waving their caps,

At a word he stood still,

To be hugged by the girls and be praised by the chaps.

We had beaten the gale,

And Selim was dry as a bone — well, perhaps,

Just a little bit damp on the tip of his tail.*

* Readers will be reminded by this conclusion of Mark Twain's story of the fast horse as told to him by Oudinot, of the Sandwich Islands, and recorded in "The Galaxy" for April, 1871. In that veracious narrative it is related that not a single drop fell on the driver, but the dog was swimming behind the wagon all the way.

THE VOICE OF WEBSTER

POEMS OF ITALY

THE VOICE OF WEBSTER

SILENCE was envious of the only voice
That mightier seemed than she. So, cloaked as Death,
With potion borrowed from Oblivion,
Yet with slow step and tear-averted look,
She sealed his lips, closed his extinguished eyes,
And veiling him with darkness, deemed him dead.
But no! — There 's something vital in the great
That blunts the edge of Death, and sages say
You should stab deep if you would kill a king.
In vain! The conqueror's conqueror he remains,
Surviving his survivors. And as when,
The prophet gone, his least disciple stands
Newly invested with a twilight awe,
So linger men beside his listeners
While they recount that miracle of speech
And the hushed wonder over which it fell.

What do they tell us of that fabled voice?
Breathing an upper air, wherein he dwelt
'Mid shifting clouds a mountain of resolve,
And falling like Sierra's April flood

That pours in ponderous cadence from the cliff,
Waking Yosemite from her sleep of snow,
And less by warmth than by its massive power
Thawing a thousand torrents into one.
Such was his speech, and were his fame to die
Such for its requiem alone were fit:
Some kindred voice of Nature, as the Sea
When autumn tides redouble their lament
On Marshfield shore; some elemental force
Kindred to Nature in the mind of man —
A far-felt, rhythmic, and resounding wave
Of Homer, or a freedom-breathing wind
Sweeping the height of Milton's loftiest mood.
Most fit of all, could his own words pronounce
His eulogy, eclipsing old with new,
As though a dying star should burst in light.

And yet he spoke not only with his voice.
His full brow, buttressing a dome of thought,
Moved the imagination like the rise
Of some vast temple covering nothing mean.
His eyes were sibyls' caves, wherein the wise
Read sibyls' secrets; and the iron clasp
Of those broad lips, serene or saturnine,
Made proclamation of majestic will.
His glance could silence like a frowning Fate.

His mighty frame was refuge, while his mien
Did make dispute of stature with the gods.

See, in the Senate, how his presence towers
Above the tallest, who but seem as marks
To guide the unwonted gaze to where he stands,
First of his peers — a lordly company.
Each State still gave the others of its best —
Our second race of giants, now, alas!
Buried beneath the lava-beds of war.
Not yet had weaklings trod the purchased path
To a feigned honor in the curule chair,
Holding a world's contempt of them for fame —
As one should take the leaves stripped from his scourge
To wreath himself a counterfeit of bay.
An age is merely Man, and, thus compact,
Must grimly expiate paternal sins;
That age's shame stands naked to the world,
And no man dares to hide it; yet one boast
Palsies the pointing finger of to-day:
'T was slave, not master, that we bought and sold.

Oh, for fit word of scorn to execrate
Our brood new-born of Greed and Liberty!
Not the blind mass of stumbling ignorance
(For the dread portent of a blackening cloud

May by bold shafts of sunlight be dispersed),
But those who lead them to the nation's hurt —
These our kind neighbors, semblances of men,
The Church's bulwark, the beloved of homes,
Locked fast in friendship's ever-loyal pledge,
Yet to whom treason is their daily breath.
Not Lucifer, on each conspiring wind
Rallying his abject crew to new assaults;
Not all the recreant names that spawning War
Has cursed with immortality, can match
The craft of their betrayals. All is sold:
Law, justice, mercy, and the future's hope —
This land that buoys the fainting fears of Man.
Yet to praise Webster one of these has dared! —
Webster, undaunted by the hour's reproof,
Webster, untempted by the hour's applause,
Who scorned to win by any art but truth!
Who, had he heard the impious flattery,
Across the Senate would have launched his wrath,
Like Cicero on cowering Catiline,
In one white passion that forevermore
Had saved to Infamy an empty name
That now he spurns in silence from his grave.

Yet had he frailties, which let those recount
Who have not seen the nigh-o'erwhelmèd state

Rescued from peril by some roisterer's skill
While all the petted virtues of the home
Stood pale and helpless. Time's a mountain-wall
That gives a fainter echo to one's best,
But unto weak or wanting, mere disdain.
He had his passions — all but one are dead:
That was his country. Never lover loved,
Soldier defended, poet praised, as he,
Who marveled all should worship not his queen,
And unto whoso loved her much forgave.
And when, one desperate day, the threatening hand
His hand so long arrested, he being gone,
Felt 'neath its pillow for the unsheath'd sword,
Who spoke for Union but with Webster's voice?
Who struck for Union but with Webster's arm?
Forgetful of the father in the son,
Men praised in Lincoln what they blamed in him.
And though, his natural tenderness grown grave,
He lives not in Love's immortality
Like Lincoln, shrined within his foeman's heart;
Though he trod not the path of him whose soul
Triumphed in song that beckoned armies on
More than persuading drum, dare-devil fife,
Or clarion bugle; though no battle-flame
Rose to a peak in him: yet was his blood
In heroes and his wrath in righteous war.

Then did the vision of his patriot hope,
Pictured in pleading but in warning words,
Inspire the inspirers, nerve the halting brave,
Make triflers solemn with the choice of death.
And when at last came Peace, the friend of all,
Grateful and wondrous as first drops of rain
After the long starvation of the drought,
Men harkened back to that prophetic hour
When two protagonists, like chosen knights,
Made long and suave epitome of war:
When Hayne arose 't was Sumter's gun was heard,
When Webster closed 't was Appomattox field.

But oh, his larger triumph was to come!
His voice, in victory potent, was in peace
Predominant. His all-benignant thought
That, never wavering through the strife of words,
No Alleghanies, no Potomac knew,
Searching the future to bring olive back,
Lived like a fragrance in the heart of Grant,
And at the perilous moment of success
Pointed the path to concord from the grave.
And what famed concord! — not a grudging truce,
Nor interlude of hate, but peace divine:
When hands with blood still wet again were clasped,
Each foe forgiving what is ne'er forgot;

The hacked sword eager for the scabbard's rest,
Not from the fear, but for the love of man.
Oh, loftier conquest of the Blue, that warred
For freedom, not for conquest! Victory,
Unsought, of all the hardly vanquished Gray!
Marvel of Europe staggering in arms;
Message of Hope unto the souls that herd
Dumb at the slaughter for the whim of kings;
Lusus of History until wars shall cease.
My country! since nor memory of strife,
Nor natural vengeance, nor the orphan's tears
Can from Love's nobler triumph hale thee back:
Who worthier than thou to lead the way
Unto the everlasting Truce of God,
When brothers shall toward brothers over sea
Stretch not the sword-blade, but the open palm,
Till on Time's long but ever-upward slope
They mount together to unreckoned heights,
And grateful nations gladly follow them!

.

So sang I, proud to be but one of all
The sands upon a shore whereon there breaks,
Freighted with purpose vast, the will of Heaven —
When a rude clash I heard, that yet I hear,
As Discord grasped again her rusted harp
And struck new terror from the raveled strings,

Calling Ambition blindfold to the lead
Of Want, Dishonor, Perfidy, and Crime,
Who in their turn misguide the innocent,
Groping their way by the last firebrands
Plucked from their holocaust of hoarded truth.
The air we fancied peaceful as the noon
Was dark with sudden hatred, as with cloud
Blown, in long-gathered tempest, from the West,
Like a wild storm of summer heat and wind
Circling in passion, bruited by dismay,
And dragging death and chaos in its train,
As some old myth of savagery come true,
And Nature had turned demon, rending Man.

This madness Webster still can medicine,
Who was physician to its earlier taint.
He did not fury then with fury meet,
But to the sanity of eternal law
Wooed back the wandering mind. Who could forget
His calming presence when, ere he began,
Confusion fled before his morning look
Of power miraculously new and mild;
The speech as temperate as a wind of May;
The mind as candid as the noonday light;
The tones deliberate, confident, sedate,
Waking no passion, and yet moving all

With such a high compulsion that at length
Reason, the king that well-nigh had been lost
Upon the confines of his sovereign realm,
Remounted to the throne with steady step,
And men again were proud of his control.

So, in these days of hopeful hearts' despair,
When perils threat, ay, throng the ship of state,
And less from gale without than torch within,
Who — who but Webster with his faith serene
Shall rouse the sleeping to command their fate,
Shall bid them steer by the unswerving stars,
And in them troth with Liberty renew?
Imagination gave his spirit wings,
That, seeing past the tempest and the flame,
He might remind us of our destiny:
To save from faction what was meant for Man;
To cherish brotherhood, simplicity,
The chance for each that is the hope for all;
To guard the realm from Sloth, and Greed, and Waste —
The sateless Gorgons of democracy;
And above all, whatever storm may rage,
To cling to Law, the path of Liberty,
The prop of heaven, the very pulse of God.
Thus our new soil, the home of every seed,
Where first the whole world meets on equal terms,

Shall such new marvels show of man's estate
In knowledge, wisdom, beauty, virtue, power,
The Past shall fade in pity or in scorn,
While fresher joys shall thrill the pulse of earth.

No, Webster's fame not Webster's self can blot.
Fair is perfection's image in the soul,
And yearning for it holds the world to good.
Yet is it such a jewel as may not
Unto a single guardian be entrust,
But to the courage of a multitude
Who all together have what each may lack.
Though men may falter, it is Virtue's strength
To be indelible: our smallest good
By our worst evil cannot be undone.
The discords of that life — how short they fall,
Like ill-strung arrows! But its harmonies —
Harmonious speech large with harmonious thought —
Dwell in a nation's peace, a nation's hope,
Imperishable music; not the rhythm
Of some remembering moment, but the peal
And crash of conflict unforgettable
Piercing the mid and thick of night. No, no,
That voice of thunder died not with the storm,
But in the dull and coward times of peace
Long shall its echoes rouse the patriot's heart.

HANDS ACROSS SEA

The War of Independence was virtually a second English civil war. The ruin of the American cause would have been also the ruin of the constitutional cause in England; and a patriotic Englishman may revere the memory of Patrick Henry and George Washington not less justly than the patriotic American.

— JOHN MORLEY, on Burke.

HANDS ACROSS SEA

I

ENGLAND, thou breeder of heroes and of bards,
Had ever nation manlier shield or song!
For thee such rivalry have sword and pen,
Fame, from her heaped green, crowns with equal hand
The deathless deed and the immortal word,
For which dost thou thy Sidney hold more dear,
Defense of England or of Poesie?
Cromwell or Milton — if man's guiding stars
Could vanish as they came — which wouldst thou spare?
Lost Kempenfelt indeed, were Cowper mute!
To victory, not alone on shuddering seas
Rode Nelson, but on Campbell's tossing rhyme.
Hark to thy great Duke's greater dirge, and doubt
For which was Waterloo the worthier won,
To change the tyrant on a foreign throne,
Or add a faultless ode to English song.
Great deeds make poets: by whose nobler word,
In turn, the blood of heroes is transfused

Into the veins of sluggards, till they rise,
Surprised, exalted to the height of men.

Nor can Columbia choose between the two
Which give more glory to thy Minster gloom.
They are our brave, our deathless, our divine —
Our Saxon grasp on their embattled swords,
Our Saxon numbers in their lyric speech.
We grudge no storied wreath, nay, would withhold
Of bay or laurel not one envied leaf.
Then, on thy proud cliff fronting Europe-ward,
Strong in thyself, not by some weaker prop,
Give to the greeting of a kindred voice
A moment in the ebb of thy disdain.

II

Is it but chance that in thy treasured verse
There is no pæan, no exulting line,
No phrase of martial fervor, to record
The Briton's prowess on our Western shore?
There was no lapse of valiance in thy race —
Or else had Time forgot to mark the years.
Nor hast thou since had lack of many a voice
Whose words, like wings to seed, on every air
From land to hospitable land import

Thy progeny of courage, justice, truth.
Why, then, when all our songs were resonant,
Were all thy singers silent? Candor, speak!
There is a dæmon makes the Muses dumb
When they would praise the wrong: but Liberty
From Nature has inheritance of speech —
The forest harp, the flood's processional,
The glorious antiphone of every shore,
When these are dumb, then poets may be mute!

III

TAUGHT by thy heroes, summoned by thy bards,
Against the imperious folly of thy kings
Twice our reluctant banners were arrayed.
What matter if the victors were not thine,
If thine the victories? Thou art more secure
Saved from the canker of successful wrong.
Thou dost not blush for Naseby, where, of old,
England most conquered, conquering Englishmen.
So when thou hear'st the trumpets in our verse
In praise of our new land's deliverance,
Hard won from Winter, Hunger, and from thee,
And from those allies thou didst hire and scorn,
Deem it not hatred, nor the vulgar pride
Of the arena, nor the greed of fame.

('Twixt men or nations, there 's no victory
Save when an angel overcomes in both.)
Would all our strife were blameless! Some, alas!
Hath trophies hoarded only to be hid,
For courage cannot hallow wanton war.
Be proud our hand against thee ne'er was raised
But to wrench English justice from thy grasp.
And, as to landsmen, far from windy shores,
The breathing shell may bear the murmuring sea,
Still in our patriot song reverberates
The mighty voice that sang at Hampden's side.

IV

TRUE, there are those of our impassioned blood
Who can forget but slowly that thy great
Misread the omens of our later strife,
And knew not Freedom when she called to thee.
These think they hate thee! — these, who have embraced
Before the altar their fraternal foes!
Not white of York and red of Lancaster
More kindly mingle in thy rose of peace
Than blend in cloudless dawn our blue and gray.
Already Time and History contend
For sinking rampart and the grassy ridge
That with its challenge startles pilgrim feet

Along the fringes of the wounded wood.
The bedtime wonder of our children holds
Vicksburg coeval with the siege of Troy,
And the scorned slave so hastened to forgive
The scar has lost remembrance of the lash.
Since Love has drawn the sting of that distress,
For one with wrath to compass sea and years
Were but to make of injury a jest,
Holding the occasion guiltier than the cause.
But Hate's a weed that withers in the sun;
A cell of which the prisoner holds the key,
His will his jailer; nay, a frowning tower
Invincible by legions, but with still
One secret weakness: *who can hate may love.*
Oh, pausing in thy cordon of the globe,
Let one full drop of English blood be spilled
For Liberty, not England: men would lose
Their fancied hatred in an ardor new,
As Minas Channel turns to Fundy's tide.
Hate thee? Hast thou forgot red Pei-ho's stream,
The triple horror of the ambushade,
The hell of battle, the foredoomed assault,
When thou didst stand the champion of the world,
Though the awed sea for once deserted thee?
Who then sprang to thee, breaking from the bonds
Of old observance, with a human cry,

Thirsting to share thy glorious defeat
As men are wont to covet victory?
Hate thee? Hast thou forgot Samoa's reef,
The day more dark than any starless night,
The black storm buffeting the hopeless ships,
The struggle of thy sons, and, as they won,
Gaining the refuge of the furious deep,
The immortal cheers that shook the *Trenton's* deck,
As Death might plead with Nature for the brave?
Stands there no monument upon that strand?
Then let remembrance build a beacon high,
That long its warning message may remind
How common danger stirs the brother heart.

v

WHY turn the leaf back to an earlier page?
To-day, not moved by memory or fear,
But by the vision of a nobler time,
Millions cry toward thee in a passion of peace.
We need thee, England, not in armed array
To stand beside us in the empty quarrels
That kings pursue, ere War itself expire
Like an o'er-armored knight in desperate lunge
Beneath the weight of helmet and of lance;
But now, in conflict with an inner foe
Who shall in conquering either conquer both.

For it is written in the book of fate:
By no sword save her own falls Liberty.
A wondrous century trembles at its dawn,
Conflicting currents telling its approach;
And while men take new reckonings from the peaks,
Reweigh the jewel and retaste the wine,
Be ours to guard against the impious hands
That, like rash children, tamper with that blade.
Thou, too, hast seen the vision: shall it be
Only a dream, caught in the web of night,
Lost through the coarser meshes of the day?
Or like the beauty of the prismic bow,
Which the sun's ardor, that creates, consumes?
Oh, may it be the thing we image it! —
The beckoning spirit of our common race
Floating before us in a fringe of light
With Duty's brow, Love's eyes, the smile of Peace;
Benignant figure of compelling mien,
Star-crowned, star-girdled, and o'erstrewn with stars,
As though a constellation should descend
To be fit courier to a glorious age.

VI

O THOU that keepest record of the brave,
Something of us to thee is lost, more worth
Than all the fabled wealth of sibyls' leaves.

Not with dull figures, but with heroes' deeds,
Fill up those empty annals. Teach thy youth
To know not North's but Byron's Washington;
To follow Hale's proud step as tearfully
As we pale André's. And when next thy sons
Stand in Manhattan gazing at the swirl
Of eddying trade from Trinity's brown porch,
Astonished, with the praise that half defames,
At the material greatness of the scene,—
The roar, the fret, the Babel-towers of trade,—
Let one stretch forth a hand and touch the stone
That covers Lawrence, saying, "To this height
Our English blood has risen." And to know
The sea still speaks of courage, let them learn
What murmurs it of Craven in one bay,
And what of Cushing shouts another shore.
(Find but one star, how soon the sky is full!
One hero summons hundreds to the field:
So to the memory.) Let them muse on Shaw,
Whose bones the deep did so begrudge the land
It sent its boldest waves to bring them back
Unto the blue-domed Pantheon where they lie,
The while his soul still leads in martial bronze;
Tell them of sweet-dirged Winthrop, whom to name
Is to be braver, as one grows more pure
Breathing the thought of lover or of saint;

Grim Jackson, Covenantant of the South,
And her well-christened Sidney, fallen soon;
Kearny and Lyon. Of such hearts as these
Who would not boast were braggart of all else.
Each fought for Right — and conquered with the Best.
Such graves are all the ruins that we have —
Our broken arch and battlement — to tell
That ours, like thine, have come of Arthur's race.

O England, wakened from thy lull of song,
Thy scepter, sword, and spindle, fasces-like,
Bound with fresh laurel as thy sign of strength,
When shalt thou win us with a theme of ours,
Reclaiming thus thine own, till men shall say:
“That was the noblest conquest of her rule”?

NEW YORK, 1897.



III

ITALIAN RHAPSODY
AND OTHER POEMS

TO WILLIAM FAYAL CLARKE

POEMS OF ITALY

ITALIAN RHAPSODY *

I

DEAR Italy! The sound of thy soft name
Soothes me with balm of Memory and Hope.
Mine, for the moment, height and sweep and slope
That once were mine. Supreme is still the aim
To flee the cold and gray
Of our December day,
And rest where thy clear spirit burns with unconsuming
flame.

II

There are who deem remembered beauty best,
And thine, imagined, fairer is than sight
Of all the charms of other realms confessed,
Thou miracle of sea and land and light.
Was it lest, envying thee,
The world unhappy be,
Benignant Heaven gave to all the all-consoling Night?

* Read before the Mother Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa
Fraternity, William and Mary College, February 10, 1902.

III

Remembered beauty best? Who reason so?
Not lovers, yearning to the same dumb star
That doth disdain their passion—who, afar,
Seek touch and voice in velvet winds and low.
No, storied Italy,
Not thine that heresy,
Thou who thyself art fairer far than Fancy e'er can
show.

IV

To me thou art an ever-brooding spell ;
An old enchantment, exorcised of wrong ;
A beacon, whereagainst the wings of Song
Are bruised so, they cannot fly to tell ;
A mistress, at whose feet
A myriad singers meet,
To find thy beauty the despair of measures full and
sweet.

V

Of old, ere caste or custom froze the heart,
What tales of thine did Chaucer re-indite,—
Of Constance, and Griselda, and the plight
Of pure Cecilia,—all with joyous art !

Oh, to have journeyed down
To Canterbury town,
And known, from lips that touched thy robe, that triad
of renown!

VI

Fount of Romance whereat our Shakspeare drank!
Through him the loves of all are linked to thee
By Romeo's ardor, Juliet's constancy.
He sets the peasant in the royal rank;
Shows under mask and paint
Kinship of knave and saint,
And plays on stolid man with Prospero's wand and
Ariel's prank.

VII

Another English foster-child hadst thou
When Milton from the breast of thy delight
Drew inspiration. With a vestal's vow
He fed the flame caught from thy sacred light.
And when upon him lay
The long eclipse of day,
Thou wert the memory-hoarded treasure of his doomed
sight.

VIII

Name me a poet who has trod thy soil ;
 He is thy lover, ever hastening back,
With thee forgetting weariness and toil,
 The nightly sorrow for the daily lack.
 How oft our lyric race
 Looked last upon thy face !
Oh, would that I were worthy thus to die in thine
 embrace !

IX

Oh, to be kin to Keats, but as a part
 Of the same Roman earth !—to sleep, unknown,
Not far from Shelley of the virgin heart,
 Where not one tomb is envious of a throne ;
 Where the proud pyramid,
 To brighter glory bid,
Gives Cestius his longed-for fame, marking immortal
 Art.

X

Or, in loved Florence, to repose beside
 Our trinity of singers ! Fame enough
 To neighbor lordly Landor, noble Clough,
And her, our later sibyl, sorrow-eyed.

Oh, tell me—not their arts,
 But their Italian hearts
 Won for their dust that narrow oval, than the world
 more wide!

XI

So might I lie where Browning should have lain,
 My "Italy" for all the world to read,
 Like his on the palazzo. For thy pain
 In losing from thy rosary that bead,
 England accords thee room
 Around his minster tomb—
 A province conquered of thy soul, and not an Arab
 slain!

XII

Then take these lines, and add to them the lay,
 All inarticulate, I to thee indite:
 The sudden longing on the sunniest day,
 The happy sighing in the stormiest night,
 The tears of love that creep
 From eyes unwont to weep,
 Full with remembrance, blind with joy, and with
 devotion deep.

XIII

Absence from thee is such as men endure
 Between the glad betrothal and the bride ;
Or like the years that Youth, intense and sure,
 From his ambition to his goal must bide.
 And if no more I may
 Mount to Fiesole . . .
Oh, then were Memory meant for those to whom is
 Hope denied.

XIV

Show me a lover who hath drunk by night
 Thy beauty-potion, as the grape the dew :
 'T were little wonder he were poet too,
With wine of song in unexpected might,
 While moonlit cloister calls
 With plashy fountain-falls,
Or darkened Arno moves to music with its mirrored
 light.

XV

Who can withstand thee? What distress or care
 But yields to Naples, or that long day-dream
We know as Venice, where alone more fair
 Noon is than night ; where every lapping stream

Woos with a soft caress
Our new-world weariness,
And every ripple smiles with joy at sight of scene so
rare.

XVI

The mystery of thy charm—ah, who hath guessed?
'T was ne'er divined by day or shown in sleep;
Yet sometimes Music, floating from her steep,
Holds to our lips a chalice brimmed and blest:
Then know we that thou art
Of the Ideal part—
Of Man's one thirst that is not quenched, drink he
howe'er so deep.

XVII

Thou human-hearted land, whose revels hold
Man in communion with the antique days,
And summon him from prosy greed to ways
Where Youth is beckoning to the Age of Gold;
How thou dost hold him near
And whisper in his ear
Of the lost Paradise that lies beyond the alluring haze!

XVIII

In tears I tossed my coin from Trevi's edge,—
A coin unsordid as a bond of love,—
And, with the instinct of the homing dove,
I gave to Rome my rendezvous and pledge.
And when imperious Death
Has quenched my flame of breath,
Oh, let me join the faithful shades that throng that
fount above.

THE HOUR OF AWE

Not in the five-domed wonder
Where the soul of Venice lies,
When the sun cleaves the gloom asunder
With pathways to Paradise,
And the organ's melodious thunder
Summons you to the skies ;

Not in that rarest hour,
When over the Arno's rush
The City of Flowers' flower
Looms in the sunset flush,
And the poignant stroke from the tower
Pierces the spirit's hush ;

Not Rome's high vault's devising
That builded the heavens in,
When you know not the anthem's rising
From the song of the cherubin,
Where, sight and soul surprising,
Dusk utters your dearest sin :

Not these—nor the star-sown splendor,
Nor the deep wood's mystery,
Nor the sullen storm's surrender
To the ranks of the leaping sea,
Nor the joy of the springtime tender
On Nature's breast to be ;

But to find in a woman's weeping
The look you have longed to find,
And know that in Time's safe-keeping,
Through all the ages blind,
Was Love, like a winged seed, sleeping,
For you and the waiting wind.

TITIAN'S TWO LOVES, IN THE BORGHESE

ONE forgets not the first dead he sorrowed over ;
One forgets not the first kiss of the first lover.
Not the dust of ages could remembrance cover
How in Titian's golden kingdom first I strayed.

Oh, that Roman morning's azure, softly sifting
Through the gray, the while the rapt eye caught the
rifting
Of the sun's rich fire where molten mists were drifting,
As one looks upon an opal gently swayed.

Ah ! but in the palace there was sun more golden !
Art for once to Nature was no more beholden.
Man to his belovèd had the passion olden
Sung in color, and his mighty Love grew Fame.

For I guessed, while hotly others were contending
Which was Love Divine, that each to each was lending
Supplemental graces for a perfect blending—
That to paint one twofold woman was his aim.

218 *TITIAN'S TWO LOVES, IN THE BORGHESE*

One without the other's beauty were but torso :
Human needs divine; ah, yes, and—maybe more so—
By divine is needed. (Singing down the Corso
I, elate, enthralled, went, happy just to be!)

.

Yet till thee at last I knew—each blended feature
Where the two Loves meet in rightly balanced nature—
Never had I known a tithe of Titian's creature :
God, the master limner, painted both in thee.

POEMS ON PUBLIC EVENTS

THE LISTENING SWORD

(WRITTEN ON THE EVE OF THE SPANISH WAR)

STILL on the hilt, O Patience, keep thy hand!
Though in the sheath the uneasy sword may leap
That waits, and, for its waiting, cannot sleep.
For it doth envy Arthur's knightly brand
And each fame-wreathèd weapon, hero-manned,
That the world's freemen in remembrance keep.
Oh, how can steel be deaf when nations weep
With the loud sobbing of the desolate strand!

Are there who think, "The hilt hears, not the blade,
Snu'g in its silence"? Ah, from storms upcaught
Fall not too soon the lightnings of the Lord.
Justice, thou God in Man, when thou hast weighed
All in thy balance, show us what we ought.
Then, Patience, not till then, loose the appointed
sword.

March 30, 1898.

DEWEY AT MANILA

I

'T WAS the very verge of May
When the bold *Olympia* led
Into Boca Grande gray
Dewey's squadron, dark and dread —
Creeping past Corregidor,
Guardian of Manila's shore.

Do they sleep who wait the fray?
Is the moon so dazzling bright
That our cruisers' battle-gray
Melts into the misty light? . . .
Ah! the rockets flash and soar!
Wakes at last Corregidor!

All too late their screaming shell
Tears the silence with its track.
This is but the *gate* of Hell;
We 've no leisure to turn back.
Answer, *Boston* — then once more
Slumber on, Corregidor!

And as, like a slowing tide,
Onward still the vessels creep,
Dewey, watching, falcon-eyed,
Orders: "Let the gunners sleep;
For we meet a foe at four
Fiercer than Corregidor."

Well they slept, for well they knew
What the morrow taught us all —
He was wise (as well as true)
Thus upon the foe to fall.
Long shall Spain the day deplore
Dewey ran Corregidor.

II

MAY is dancing into light
As the Spanish Admiral,
From a dream of phantom fight,
Wakens at his sentry's call.
Shall he leave Cavite's lee,
Hunt the Yankee fleet at sea?
O Montojo, to thy deck,
That to-day shall float its last!
Quick! To quarters! Yonder speck
Grows a hull of portent vast.

Hither, toward Cavite's lee
Comes the Yankee hunting thee!

Not for fear of hidden mine
Halts our doughty Commadore.
He, of old heroic line,
Follows Farragut once more,
Hazards all on victory,
Here within Cavite's lee.

If he loses, all is gone;
He will win because he must.
And the shafts of yonder dawn
Are not quicker than his thrust.
Soon, Montojo, he shall be
With thee in Cavite's lee.

Now, Manila, to the fray!
Show the hated Yankee host
This is not a holiday —
Spanish blood is more than boast,
Fleet and mine and battery,
Crush him in Cavite's lee!

Lo, Hell's geysers at our fore
Pierce the plotted path — in vain,
Nerving every man the more
With the memory of the *Maine*!

Now at last our guns are free
Here within Cavite's lee.

"Gridley," says the Commodore,
"You may fire when ready." Then
Long and loud, like lions' roar
When a rival dares the den,
Breaks the awful cannonry
Full across Cavite's lee.

Who shall tell the thrilling tale
Of Our Thunderbolt's attack,
Finding, when the chart should fail,
By the lead his dubious track,
Five ships following faithfully
Five times o'er Cavite's lee;

Of our gunners' deadly aim;
Of the gallant foe and brave
Who, unconquered, faced with flame,
Seek the mercy of the wave —
Choosing honor in the sea
Underneath Cavite's lee!

Let the meed the victors gain
Be the measure of their task.
Less of flinching, stouter strain,
Fiercer combat — who could ask?

And "surrender"—'t was a word
That Cavite ne'er had heard.

Noon — the woeful work is done.

Not a Spanish ship remains;
But, of their eleven, none

Ever was so truly Spain's!
Which is prouder, they or we,
Thinking of Cavite's lee?

ENVOI

BUT remember, when we've ceased
Giving praise and reckoning odds,
Man shares courage with the beast,
Wisdom cometh from the gods.
Who would win, on land or wave,
Must be wise as well as brave.

May 10, 1898.

THE WELCOME OF OUR TEARS

(ON THE RETURN OF A REGIMENT FROM
THE SPANISH WAR)

Now is the time to be glad!

Now is the time to be gay!

With welcome the city is mad,

And the flags and the wind are at play.

There, down the street full of faces

(Like a furrow that Joy has plowed),

The heart and the eye run races

Which first shall greet the proud

Nearer and nearer they come!

I can tell by the cheer and the shout

That keep just ahead of the drum

Where the little flags break out.

I can tell by the blood's quick leaping

My sluggish veins along,

I can tell by my footstep keeping

The rhythm of battle-song.

Against them the sword of the Cid

In the hand of a haughty foe;

Against them the jungle that hid

Iron-fanged serpents a-row;

Against them the storm and the baking
Of sun on the rain-drenched skin;
Against them the fever's aching,
Against them our civic sin.

Here they are! father and lad.
Now let us cheer them — but stay!
Too haggard that face to be glad,
Too weary those feet to be gay.
God! are these phantoms the handsome
Young knights that went, eager to save?
O Freedom, is this then the ransom
We give for the starved and the slave?

They whom we welcome to-day —
Why do the shout and the cheer
Lining each step of their way
Seem like a dirge and a tear?
Is it that some may be wearing
Laurels of others? Ay, see!
Count the thin ranks of the daring:
Each wears his laurels for three!

And we thought it a time to be glad!
And we thought it a time to be gay!

AN ENGLISH MOTHER

EVERY week of every season out of English ports go
forth

White of sail or white of trail, East, or West, or South,
or North,

Scattering like a flight of pigeons, half a hundred home-
sick ships,

Bearing half a thousand striplings — each with kisses
on his lips

Of some silent mother, fearful lest she show herself too
fond,

Giving him to bush or desert as one pays a sacred bond.
— Tell us, you who hide your heartbreak, Which is
sadder, when all 's done,

To repine, an English mother, or to roam, an English
son?

You who shared your babe's first sorrow when his cheek
no longer pressed

On the perfect, snow-and-roseleaf beauty of your mother-
breast,

In the rigor of his nurture was your woman's mercy mute,
Knowing he was doomed to exile with the savage and
the brute?

Did you school yourself to absence, all his adolescent
years,

That, though you be torn with parting, he should never
see the tears,

Now his ship has left the offing for the many-mouthèd
sea,

This your guerdon, empty heart, by empty bed to bend
the knee!

And if he be but the latest thus to leave your dwindling
board,

Is a sorrow less for being added to a sorrow's hoard?

Is the mother-pain the duller that to-day his brothers
stand,

Facing ambuscades of Congo or alarms of Zululand?

Toil, where blizzards drift the snow like smoke across
the plains of death?

Faint, where tropic fens at morning stream with fever-
laden breath?

Die, that in some distant river's veins the English blood
may run —

Mississippi, Yangtze, Ganges, Nile, Mackenzie, Amazon?

Ah! you still must wait and suffer in a solitude untold
While your sisters of the nations call you passive, call
you cold —
Still must scan the news of sailings, breathless search
the slow gazette,
Find the dreaded name . . . and, later, get his blithe
farewell! And yet —
Shall the lonely at the hearthstone shame the legions
who have died
Grudging not the price their country pays for progress
and for pride?
— Nay; but, England, do not ask us thus to emulate
your scars
Until women's tears are reckoned in the budgets of your
wars.

1899.

"THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN"

WHAT is the White Man's burden?
Does destiny demand
His back be laden higher
By every dusky hand?
Am I my brother's keeper —
Or keeper of his land?

What is the White Man's burden?
Is it the mounting flood
Of treasure, vain to vanquish
The tides of patriot blood,
While our supremest jewel
Is trampled in the mud?

What is the White Man's burden
That weighs upon his sleep?
To hear the hundreds dying?
To see the thousands weep?
Oh, wanton war that haunts him!
Oh, seed that he must reap!

What is the White Man's burden —
The burden of his song
That once was "Peace and Justice;
The Weak beside the Strong"?
He falters in the singing
At memory of the wrong.

What though our vaunt of Freedom
Must evermore be mute,
And the trading of men's vices
Drag both below the brute?
Go bribe new ships to bring it —
The White Man's burden — loot!

ON READING OF ATROCITIES IN WAR

MILD is the air of April,
Gentle the sky above,
And the budding and the mating
Call for a song of love;
But the season on my singing
Has lost its olden spell
Because of a shame and sorrow
Men close their eyes to tell.

I see but the tears of women
In the rain of the springtime flood;
I cannot brook the flowers —
They only smell of blood.
Sad is the playground frolic —
Its joy and laughter melt
In the moan of children sobbing
From jungle and from veldt.

O ye in the halls of council,
You may conquer the distant foe,
But still before a higher court
Your needless wars must go.

Too much you ask of silence;
Too fierce the iron heel.
Because one statesman blundered
Must every heart be steel?

O Britain! O Columbia!
Too much of sodden strife.
Back to the banished gospel —
The sacredness of life!
Else shall our ties of language
And law and race and fame
Be naught to the bond that binds us
In one eternal shame.

April 8, 1902.

THE KEEPER OF THE SWORD *

(APROPOS OF THE DREYFUS TRIAL AT RENNES)

HAIL to that Breton law by which a lord,
Fate-hounded,—he whose sires had sought the Grail,—
Left with the State his sword, as Honor's bail,
While on a western isle he won reward
Of his brave patience, in a golden hoard; —
Speeding from exile (the wide sea a jail
If but the wrong wind filled his yearning sail!)
To claim once more his heritage and sword.

France, dost thou heed the omen? 'T was at Rennes! —
Where one who loved thee, cruel,—loved thee, blind,—
Now fronts thee proudly with the old demand.
Oh! . . . thou hast broke it! . . . Haste! the
fragments find,
And in the forge of Justice weld again
That undishonored blade for his forgiving hand.

August 7, 1899.

* Readers of the "Sentimental Journey" will recall Sterne's account of the custom here referred to, as narrated in the chapter entitled "The Sword: Rennes."

REMEMBER WARING!

(THE CITY AGAINST TAMMANY, 1901)

AGAIN the bugle-blow
To meet the common foe
Summons the daring.
Can ye not hear the call
Echo from every wall —
“Remember Waring”?

He stormed the fetid street
Where Death with rapid feet
Strode fierce and glaring.
Shall *we* forget, alone,
When every grateful stone
Remembers Waring?

He, to your service true;
He, in his love of you
Himself not sparing;
Whom gold could not allure;
Guardian of rich and poor —
Our soldier Waring!

He found a wretched throng —
Rescued from ancient wrong —
 New burdens bearing;
And babes that he did save
Cry from a later grave:
 “Remember Waring.”

He dared a tropic hell
Of fever — till he fell,
 And we, despairing,
Knew that for us he died,
And in our grieving cried:
 “Remember Waring!”

Shall we be less than they
Who make the poor their prey,
 No least one sparing?
They praise him, though they fill
Each tainted purse; *they* still
 Remember Waring.

How shall our deed atone
That nowhere bronze or stone
 His name is bearing?
His ashes in their urn
With his old ardor burn,
 And plead, for Waring:

“ Oh, if the work I wrought
Be to your memory aught,
Now Greed is tearing
The crown from Freedom's brow,
Strike harder that you now
Remember Waring.”

Then, ere the heart grow cold,
Let us on altars old
New vows be swearing:
“ Perish the people's foe!
Scorn for his tool! ” and so
Remember Waring.

POEMS OF HEART AND SOUL

TO ONE BORN ON THE LAST DAY OF
NOVEMBER

UPON this day, divinely blest,
When thou wert born, as to their guest,
Three seasons gave thee of their best.

March brought the graceful stir of Spring;
April, a tender song to sing;
May, the most winsome blossoming;

June gave sweet breath, and that pale flush
July has deepened in thy blush.
Repose came with the August hush.

September blent thy glowing hair
With glowing temple, as the air
Of twilight blendeth dark and fair.

October's dower was so rife
With treasure, futile further strife,
And so November gave thee — life.

So keen and icy was the smart
Of Winter (since he had no part
In fashioning thy radiant heart),

He bade December so to plead
For thee, petitioning his need,
That the relenting Fates took heed;

And though November's thou must be,
Yet nearest Winter (they decree)
Is set thy gracious ministry.

MUSIC AND LOVE

WHO longs for music merely longs for Love.
For Love 's music, and no minstrel needs
Save his own sigh to breathe upon the reeds
From heart too full, and — like the adoring dove
That cooes all day the darling nest above,
Content if hour to happy hour succeeds —
Nor morning's song, nor noon's rich silence, heeds,
Nor the old mysteries evening whispers of.

But when the voice is echoless, the hand
Long empty, then, O wedded harp and flute,
Remind us Love 's eternal, not Time's toy.
O viol, at whose door of pain we stand,
Love in thy muted anguish is not mute,
But thrills with memory's new-remembered joy.

AT A CONCERT

MUSIC inspires me but to think of thee,
For thou art of the music of the world —
A strain of that imperishable voice
That speaks in beauty, harmony, and love.
When Mozart wakes the gladness of my youth
I see perpetual childhood in thy face.
When Chopin, hand in hand with Love, leads on
Through meadowy pleasures to the verge of pain,
How near, how tender is thy beating heart!
And oh, when from the skies Beethoven sounds
His sure, triumphant song, how it vibrates
Deep memories of thy reposeful soul!

AFTER THE SONG

(TO E. J. W.)

If to your wondrous voice and art
I give not plaudits with the throng,
'T is lest I spill my brimming heart
And in the singer lose the song.

Too soon the sweetest cadence dies;
The vanished vision leaves but this:
The burden of the things we prize,
The pathos of the things we miss.

Oh, for a silence that should hold
These echoes of delicious sound
As depths of a still lake enfold
Brooks that fall fainter bound by bound.

Yours is the art of Orphic power
To charm the soul from out its hell —
Deserts of absence to reflower
With rose instead of asphodel.

Like dew on gossamer, a tear
Lies on the fabric of our dream:
Despairing hope! that we who hear
Might be as noble as you seem.

SONG FOR YOUTH

O FLOWER-LIKE years of youth,
Delay, delay!
Old Time shall soon, forsooth,
December make of May.
Bid him away!

O flower-like years of youth,
Oh, stay; oh, stay!
Nor covet Age uncouth,
When all is warm and gay
For you to-day.

O flower-like years of youth,
Delay, delay!
Let others seek for Truth;
Yours is the time for play
And dance of fay.

O flower-like years of youth,
Oh, stay; oh, stay!
Time with remorseless tooth
Shall gnaw your bloom away;
Then say him nay.

O flower-like years of youth,
 Delay, delay!
Age knows for you no ruth;
Then, till your latest day,
 Hold him at bay.

SONG OF REMEMBRANCE

BIRD of the swaying bough
(*Like the voice of a lover's vow*),
You shall hold for me ever, as now,
The thrill of your morning song.

Bubble of April light
(*Like the glance of a lover's sight*),
You shall into my winter night
The soul of the noon prolong.

Cloud of the wind-swept land
(*Like the touch of a lover's hand*),
In the memory you shall stand
Though you flee from the flaming sky.

Rose of the scattered bower
(*Like Love's most fragrant hour*),
When shall you lose your power?
When I no more am I.

STAR-SONG

WHEN sunset flows into golden glows,
And the breath of the night is new,
Love, find afar yon yearning star —
That is my thought of you.

And when your eye doth scan the sky
Your lonely lattice through,
Choose any one, from sun to sun —
That is my thought of you.

And when you wake at the morning's break
To rival rose and dew,
The star that stays in the leaping rays —
That is my thought of you.

SONG FOR A WEDDING-DAY

POPLAR, straight and fair and tall:
Graceful though your sway,
Well for your soft rise and fall
That Helen is away.

Bud, about whose fragrant side
All the pleasures play:
Rose, remember in your pride
That Helen is away.

Heart, whose hope she never knew:
Though other hearts be gay,
None need ever tell to you
That Helen is away.

WITH A TOAST TO THE BRIDE

THEY met, they looked, they sighed, they loved;
Straight each the other chose.

(Why wait till slow-paced years have proved
What each by instinct knows?)

Whate'er mistake we mortals make,
Sure, none is made above.

Give prudence to the prudes; there is
No substitute for love.

Howe'er the worldly-wise may mate,
Apart from soul or sense,

And as undying passion rate

Their tepid preference,

Love is the wing that 's sure to bring
Back to the ark the dove.

What all their wisdom? Ah, it is
No substitute for love.

And those who by ambition blind

Would with a title wed,

That, when they are not sore maligned,
They may be envièd,

Heaven sends them pride wherewith to hide
The loss they know not of —
To find — too late, alas! — there is
No substitute for love.

Then here 's success to youth and maid
Who hold in hopeful hands
And weave together, unafraid,
Life's old mysterious strands.
“ Love is enough ”— that is the stuff
Fortune is fashioned of.
To face the fickle world, there 's naught
To substitute for love.

TO JUNE

MONTH of the perfect love,
Month of the perfect leaf,—
The mellow-mourning dove
Thine only note of grief,—

Oh, let me hide within thy shade a sorrow past relief!

Thou, unto whose employ
All Nature's arts belong —
Fragrance and warmth and joy:
Admit me to thy throng.

Thou canst not dull the pang, but oh! tune every chord
to song!

A LOVER'S ANSWER

THOU seekest, "Where is heaven?" Oh, Love, 't is
where

Thou shalt be, though thou be in hell.

"And what is hell?" Oh, darling, 't were to dwell
In highest heaven and thou not there.

THE GUEST

I HAVE a guest, but cannot tell
If he were bid or sent,
Yet welcome, as by desert well
The Arab to the tent.
How long will he consent to stay
To give a reason for the day?

And if he go, can I unlearn
His songs of joy and pain?
His torch, that was so quick to burn,
How can I quench again —
That torch that lights with fadeless flame
One face, one memory, one name!

TO ONE WHO COMPLAINED OF A
LOVER'S PERSISTENCE

You hear but the moans that break
On the rocks at your feet — but hark!
Perchance through the dreary dark
A cry from a drifting wreck!

INTERPRETERS

ONE conned my simple lines with cynic art,
Then smiled, as though he found a friend in me,
And read: "If Love alone possess your heart,
Then can you never more unhappy be."

Another, feeling still Love's bitter dart,
Smiled through her joyful tears triumphantly,
And read: "If Love alone possess your heart,
Then can you nevermore unhappy be."

THE TRYST

THE panting north wind staggers
A-clutch with the sullen tide,
And the blast with a hundred daggers
Is piercing the rower's side.
They say he was mad to venture,
They moan on the icy shore;
But pleading, or fear, or censure
Shall carry him back no more.

For what is the cold wave's seething,
Or the rush of the white-speared storm,
To the thought of the sweet South, breathing
From lips that are pure and warm;
Or the thrust of the angry billow
To the rise of her tranquil breast
That to-night shall be his pillow
Where, welcome, he may rest?

"LOVE THE CONQUEROR CAME TO ME"

I

Love the Conqueror came to me,—
He whom I did long deride,—
Gave humility for pride,
April voicing
My rejoicing.
I — who fancied I was free —
Glad to be with garlands tied!

II

Love the Awakener came to me;
Called my sleeping soul to strife,
Offered gift of fuller life
(Wish, the measure
Of my pleasure);
And the bud that knew no bee
Burst, a rose with beauty rife.

III

Love the Tester came to me;
For the pæan gave the dirge,
For caresses gave the scourge
 (Ay, though Fortune
 Did importune),
Till my breathing seemed to be
Sorrow's tide at ebb and surge.

IV

Love the Ennobler came to me,
With the cross as his device,
Saying, "Shrink not from the price
 (Pain the burden,
 Peace the guerdon);
Sorrow bravely borne shall be
Doubly sweet as sacrifice."

V

Love the Revealer comes to me
On this battled height, and shows
Yonder river of repose:
 "Not by creeping,
 But by leaping,
Learns the rill the harmony
That within the river flows."

THE STRONGER SUMMONS *

I

How May doth call us with her sweetest voice,
Fragrant with blossoms on this moonlit night!
"Take of my wine, and in new birth rejoice;
Leave care and toil, the sordid city's plight.
Oh, dying Man, come to the source of Life,
And hush in Nature all the sounds of strife."

II

Wondrous the vision, and we fain would go
But that a nobler pleasure calls us here.
Charm, Nature, as thou wilt, thou canst not throw
A spell to win us like the smile and tear.
In what Love, Friendship, Duty, Service can,
We know God's greatest miracle is Man.

* Written in honor of the distinguished physician Dr. Abraham Jacobi, and read at the banquet given to him in New York city, May 5, 1900, to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of his birth, and included with the Festschrift then presented to him by members of the medical profession.

THE FLOWER OF FAME

HE sought it before the billow of spring on the meadow
was seen,

When only the flush of the willow was tracing the river
with green;

He scanned to the edge of the fraying snows that
dappled the mountain-slope,

And ever too late the March sun rose: for he searched
the world with hope.

I saw him at noon of the summer day, and that was the
favorite hour

To one who had hunted from March to May, and never
had found the flower;

For the light was full, as though the sun were aiding
his eager quest,

And there were no warning shadows to run o'er his
path from east or west.

And still in September's purple and gold he was hunting
the grudging ground,

But not with the steady eye of old or the springtime's
joyous bound;

If he stopped in his feverish roaming, 't was to question
the darkling air;

Too early came the gloaming: he was searching with
despair.

And while, for a chance of the rarest, he wanders in
storm or heat,

He is blind to the charm of the fairest; he is crushing
beneath his feet

The Flower of Every Valley, the Flower of All the Year,
Deep in whose broken blossom the dew lies like a tear.

THE DREAD BEFORE GREAT JOY

I

WITHIN, what gracious store
Of pleasures throng:
Rest, beauty, firelit lore,
Love-breathing song.
Why at the open door
Wait you so long?

II

Oh, why delay to touch
The splendid flower?
Why tremble ere we clutch
The perfect hour?
Is it too near, too much,
The certain dower?

III

Beneath the bride's attire
Her heart stands still —
Half-way from porch to choir —
For joy, not ill
(We shiver before fire
As well as chill).

IV

Home-bound, beyond the bar
I heard again,
An exile from afar,
The tide's refrain:
What did the moment mar?
Ah! 't was not pain.

V

Well may the victor shrink
Aghast at Fame
To hear, on Fortune's brink,
His land's acclaim,
That with its great doth link
His own strange name.

VI

We raise the precious bowl —
To sip and sigh:
The starving takes but dole
Lest he may die;
Must, then, the famished soul
Its feast put by?

VII

What if our mortal fear
Were but the dread
Before great joy! How near
Were the loved dead!
Then were the grave more dear
Than bridal bed.

REINCARNATION

“Another world! Another life!” we cry,
And for new chances toward far regions reach,
Yet squander teeming treasure as we sigh,
While every day a new life waits for each.

PREMONITIONS

THERE 's a shadow on the grass
That was never there before;
And the ripples as they pass
Whisper of an unseen oar;
And the song we knew by rote
Seems to falter in the throat,
And a footfall, scarcely noted, lingers near the open
door.

Omens that were once but jest
Now are messengers of fate;
And the blessing held the best
Cometh not or comes too late.
Yet, whatever life may lack,
Not a blown leaf beckons back,
"Forward!" is the summons. "Forward! where the
new horizons wait."

IV

MOMENTS OF ITALY, AND
OTHER POEMS

TO GRACE DENIO LITCHFIELD

TO ONE WHO NEVER GOT TO ROME

(EDMUND CLARENCE STEDMAN)

[ON his long-deferred and only trip to Italy Stedman entered the country from the north for what proved to be a very brief sojourn, for soon after reaching Venice he was suddenly obliged to return to America. It remained his cherished desire to see the Eternal City, and the Roman Committee of the Keats-Shelley Memorial long hoped that he might be present at the proposed dedication of the Keats House, contemplated for the 23d of February, 1908. He died five weeks before that day, when the lines which follow were written. As the active and devoted Chairman of the American Committee he took a leading part in this project. Probably his last words written for publication on a literary topic were in praise of the two poets, to which he added a transcription from "Ariel," his ode on Shelley.]

You who were once bereft of Rome

With but the Apennines between,
And went no more beyond the foam,

But loved your Italy at home

As others loved her seen :

You knew each old imperial shaft

With sculpture laureled to the blue ;
Where martyr bled and tyrant laughed ;
Where Horace his Falernian quaffed,
And where the vintage grew.

The Forum's half-unopened book
You would have pondered well and long;
And loved St. Peter's misty look,
With vesper chantings in some nook
Of far-receding song.

Oft had you caught the silver gleams
Of Roman fountains. To your art
They add no music. Trevi teems
With not more free or bounteous streams
Than did your generous heart.

I hoped that this Muse-hallowed day
Might find your yearning dream come true:
That you might see the moonlight play
On ilex and on palace gray
As 't were alone for you;—

That your white age might disappear
Within the whiteness of the night,
While the late strollers, lending ear
To your young joy, would halt and cheer
At such a happy wight;—

That you,—whose toil was never done,—
Physicianed by the Land of Rest,
Might, like a beggar in the sun,
Watch idly the green lizard run
From out his stony nest;—

That you, from that high parapet
That crowns the graceful Spanish Stairs,
(Whose cadence, as to music set,
Moving like measured minuet,
Would charm your new-world cares),

Might see the shrine you helped to save;
And yonder blest of cypresses,
That proud above your poets wave.
Warder of all our song, you gave
What loyalty to these!

The path to Adonais' bed,
That pilgrims ever smoother wear,
Who could than you more fitly tread?—
Or with more right from Ariel dead
The dark acanthus bear?

Alas! your footstep could not keep
Your fond hope's rendezvous, brave soul!
Yet, if our last thoughts ere we sleep
Be couriers across the deep
To greet us at the goal,

Who knows but now, aloof from ills,
The heavenly vision that you see—
The towers on the sapphire hills,
The song, the golden light—fulfils
Your dream of Italy!

THE SPANISH STAIRS

[It will be recalled that the house in which Keats died adjoins the Spanish Stairs in Rome. It has been proposed to remove the fountain below them to make room for the tramway in the piazza.]

ROME, symbol of all change, oh, change not here!

Thou, ever avid of beauty, who shall say
Thou hast forsworn it in a vain display
And blare of discord, as though eager ear
Listening for nightingale heard chanticleer?
Oh, leave these sunny stairs, that float and stray
From fountain blithe and flowers' rich array
To beckoning bells and chanting nuns anear.

Of all the dead that loved them, hear that voice
Whose sorrow and last silence once they knew,
Whose spirit guards them with his flaming theme,
The immortal joy of beauty. Oh, rejoice,
And stay thy hand: that future ages, too,
By them may mount to heaven, like Jacob in his
dream.

PIAZZA DI SPAGNA,
St. Agnes' Eve, 1903.

THE NAME WRIT IN WATER

(PIAZZA DI SPAGNA, ROME)

The Spirit of the Fountain speaks:

YONDER 's the window my poet would sit in
While my song murmured of happier days;
Mine is the water his name has been writ in,
Sure and immortal my share in his praise.

Gone are the pilgrims whose green wreaths here hung
for him,—

Gone from their fellows like bubbles from foam;
Long shall outlive them the songs have been sung for
him;

Mine is eternal—or Rome were not Rome.

Far on the mountain my fountain was fed for him,
Bringing soft sounds that his nature loved best:
Sighing of pines that had fain made a bed for him;
Seafaring rills, on their musical quest;

Bells of the fairies at eve, that I rang for him;
Nightingale's glee, he so well understood;
Chant of the dryads at dawn, that I sang for him;
Swish of the snake at the edge of the wood.

Little he knew 'twixt his dreaming and sleeping,
The while his sick fancy despaired of his fame,
What glory I held in my loverly keeping:
Listen! my waters will whisper his name.

SPRING AT THE VILLA CONTI

OF Time and Nature still the fairest daughter,
 Low-voiced Repose! Here thou dost ever dwell,
 While Fancy wills no more to wander on.
With how few simples dost thou steep the sense,
 Holding in soft suspense,
 Like pauses in the tolling of a bell,
 The beauty coming and the beauty gone.
Nothing is here but woods and water,
 Spaces, and stone, and a sculptor's wit
 Simply to fashion it
Into one long line of many niches,
Whose fountains are fed by the rushing riches
 That, bowl to bowl, from the woodland pool
 Fall in a rhythm clear and strong,
 Singing to Nature her eldest song,
 Prattling their paradox—restfully restless.
O March, with never a moment zestless,
 Nor the sun too warm nor the shade too cool!
O May and the music of birds now nestless!
 Come soon and brood o'er the woodland pool!

(For lover or nightingale who can wait?
Whenever he cometh he cometh late.)

The light plays over the ilex green,
Turning to silver the somber sheen,
And Spring in the heart of the day doth dwell
As the thought of a loved one dwells with me,
And only three cypresses to tell
"This is not Heaven, but Italy."

FRASCATI, March, 1903.

COMO IN APRIL

THE wind is Winter, though the sun be Spring:
The icy rills have scarce begun to flow;
The birds unconfidently fly and sing.

As on the land once fell the northern foe,
The hostile mountains from the passes fling
Their vandal blasts upon the lake below.

Not yet the round clouds of the Maytime cling
Above the world's blue wonder's curving show,
And tempt to linger with their lingering.

Yet doth each slope a vernal promise know:
See, mounting yonder, white as angel's wing,
A snow of bloom to meet the bloom of snow.

.
Love, need we more than our imagining
To make the whole year May? What though
The wind be Winter if the heart be Spring?

THE VINES THAT MISSED THE BEES

(TO COUNT COSIMO RUCELLAI OF FLORENCE WITH A
COPY OF HIS ANCESTOR GIOVANNI RUCELLAI'S
POEM "THE BEES")

ONCE, when I saw the tears upon your vines
You told me they were "weeping"—but for what?
I find their secret in your kinsman's lines:
They missed the honeyed music he has caught.

FLORENCE, April, 1906.

THE POET IN THE CHILDREN'S EYES

(TO COUNTESS EDITH RUCELLAI, DESCENDANT OF JOSEPH
RODMAN DRAKE,—IN HER ALBUM, CONTAINING
LINES BY BROWNING, LONGFELLOW,
LOWELL, AND OTHERS)

THOU of a poet's blood, and many a tie
Of kin or friendship with the singing race:
How shall I dare, without a throb or sigh,
Near these lost bards beloved my name to place!

One wish I offer, though with halting fingers:
That in thy brood, of eager eyes divine,
The poet that within the mother lingers
May find a voice worthy the deathless line.

FLORENCE, April, 1906.

TO DREYFUS VINDICATED *

I

SOLDIER of Justice,— fighting with her sword
Since thine was broken! Who need now despair
To lead a hope forlorn against the throng!

For what did David dare
Before Goliath worthy this compare —
Thou in the darkness fronting leaguèd wrong?
What true and fainting cause shall not be heir
Of all thy courage — more than miser's hoard!
In times remote, when some preposterous Ill
Man has not yet imagined, shall be King,

While comfortable Freedom nods,—
And Three shall meet to slay the usurping thing,
Thy name recalled shall clinch their potent will,
And as they cry, "*He won* — what greater odds!"
They shall become as gods.

II

Oh, what a star is one man's steadfastness,
To reckon from, to follow, and to bless!

* See also page 236.

Thou that didst late belong
To every land but France — the unribboned
Knight

To whom her honor and thine own were one:

Now, on the morrow of thy faithful fight

When once more shines the sun

And all the weak are strong,—

No less we call thee ours

That thou art doubly hers, the while she showers

On thine unhumbled head

Her penitential laurels and her flowers,

As might we on one risen from the dead: —

France, generous at last,

Impassioned nobly to retrieve her passion overpast.

Ours, too, thy champions! Who shall dare to
say

The sordid time doth lack of chivalry,

When men thus all renounce, all cast away,

To walk with martyrs through a flaming sea!

Picquart! — how jealously will Life patrol

The paths of peril whither he is sent.

Zola! — too early gone!

Whose taking even Death might well repent,

Though 't was to enrich that greater Pantheon

Where dwell the spirits of the brave of soul.

III

Yet doth thy triumph find its better part,
Soldier of Mercy, in thine own great heart,
That, in the vision of thy loneliest time,
Learned, like the poet, "All revenge is crime."
But though thine enemies may never feel
The gyves that with injustice mangled thee,
Pierced shall their souls be by a sharper steel —
The blade of conscience — faultless weaponry!

Though, free from Law's reprisal,
They lie within no dank and sheathing cell
Where horror doth approximate to hell; —
Though they may never, near the brink of death,
Accuse with proud, pure hands the God of
Light; —

Yet is the day their night;
Yet is the world their prison, and their breath
But the slow poison of the world's despisal.
Leave them — so deaf to pity — unto Him
Who taught thee pity in thine exile caged and
dim.

ENVOI

OH, tremble, all oppressors, where ye be —
Throne, senate, mansion, mart, or factory;
One against many, many against few;
Ye poor, once crushed, that crush your own anew;
Ye vulgar rich, new-risen from the mud,
Despoilers of the flower in the bud:
For justice is the orbit of God's day,
And He hath promised that He will repay.

THE ABSENT GUEST

(READ MARCH 20, 1907, AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF
THE MACDOWELL ASSOCIATION, FOUNDED TO
PROMOTE EDWARD MACDOWELL'S PLANS
FOR A SYMPATHETIC COÖPERA-
TION OF THE ARTS)

Go, wreathe his chair with laurel,
And brim his glass with wine,
And let one silent place proclaim
The presence we divine.

To sorrow for so pure a soul,
So warm a heart as he,
Makes never discord at a feast
Given to Harmony.

The dream he dreamed by starlight
Is not less fair by sun:
That Beauty may to Beauty join
Till all the arts be one;

That each who serves the Muses,
And weaves the magic thrall
With words, or sounds, or speechless earth,
May brother be to all.

On this wide hearth he lighted
A new-inspiring flame,
Whose torch to kindling torch for aye
Shall whisper of his fame.

Join hands for that Ideal
He loved and worshiped most. . . .
Our absent guest, I said? . . . Ah, no!
He is our absent host.

THE CZAR'S OPPORTUNITY

THE SUNDAY MASSACRE, ST. PETERSBURG, JANUARY 22
1905

HE heard his loyal people cry
Like children to a saint:
“ Help, Little Father, or we die!
We starve, we freeze, we faint.
The noble hears not for his crimes,
The soldier, for his drum,
The Procurator, for his chimes —
To thee at last we come.

“ To-morrow, when the bells have ceased,
Before thy palace door
A throng shall stand, as at a feast,
Thy mercy to implore.
And that with favor it be crowned,
The prayer we bring to thee
Shall on the Holy Cross be bound
As Christ on Calvary.”

Then the good angel of the Czar
Spake with a sibyl's voice:
"Let no mischance this moment mar,
'T is sent thee to rejoice.
Go meet thy people as they trudge
Toward thee their weary way,
To find in thee a righteous judge;
And go unarmed as they.

"Enough, through centuries of wrong,
Thy line's inverted fame,
The Romanoff has been too long
The synonym of shame.
Then haste to meet the cross afar,
Do thou what courage can,
And thou shalt be the greater Czar
If thou but show thee man."

He rose, resolved; but — fortune dire! —
One glance his purpose crossed:
An impulse from some recreant sire
Triumphed, and he was lost.
The flower is trampled in the sod;
False dawn delays the day:
And once again the Will of God
Marches the bloody way.

THE LOVER OF HIS KIND

WREATHS for the Soldier, if it be
His sword be sworn to Liberty!
Wreaths for the Poet who shall bring
New light to Dawn, new joy to Spring!
Wreaths for the Hero who shall brave
The peril of the flame or wave!
But keep one wreath for him whose days
Too happy for the need of praise —
Glow with the love and hope that plan
A richer heritage for Man.

He keeps his faith amid the grime
And scramble of our modern time.
His eyes are sight to countless feet
That else would stumble in the street.
Riches the poor would throw away
He saves to make their better day.
Taught both by sorrow and by sin,
His great heart's portals open in.

And, though not reckoned with the great,
His hidden labors prop the State.

For ages History pondered long
The flaunted records of the strong.
To-day she craves the subtle power
To know the soil that grows the flower.
To-morrow she perchance may speak
The judgments of the voiceless weak.

TOGETHER

ALL life is but one and man's nature not lower or
higher

If true to his finest he be, whether body or soul.
Each some time seems loftier, bidding the other aspire;
Lift both to the height of their best and make perfect the whole!

SOMETHING IN BEAUTY BINDS US TO
THE GOOD

HELEN 's of the goddess-height,
Formed to lavish on the sight
Lines to give the world delight;
Rest and Motion there contend
Which to her the more may lend,
Grace and dignity to blend.

Gentle as the turning tide
Is her breathing, scarce espied
Where the virgin gown doth hide;
Yet increase of sympathy
Makes her throbbing, like the sea,
Fit your sorrow or your glee.

For her quick responses reach
Into regions beyond speech,
Mating with the mood of each;

Heaven having matched her form
With a woman's heart as warm
As first firelight after storm.

Not less graciously was planned
Her large, perfect, helpful hand
With its hint of soft command;
Fairest at her face it shows
When her lips caress a rose,
While her laughing lids half close.

White and noble is her brow
With the pureness of a vow
Such as I am breathing now.
Ever so, if Beauty could
Be by mortals understood,
It would bind us to the good.

ON A LADY'S CHÂTELAINE MIRROR

(TO M. L. U.)

WERE there a mirror for the soul
To give report of joy or dole,
How we should o'er thy shoulder peer
To find the secret of thy cheer.

THE SCAR

BUT one the scar had ever seen.

Some said 't was got in valiant fight
With foe too strong; some hinted flight,
And wondered where "the scratch" had been,
And marveled he survived its might!

Month upon month, and year on year
Passed, and his dumb lips gave no sign.
But men remarked, like some rare wine,
The smile, that brought to joy new cheer,
And gave to grief an anodyne.

While he lay dead, there drew apart
Two, whispering; then, their courage found,
They tore aside the band that bound;
A third, with woman's gentle art,
Hid with her hair his open wound.

COMPELLING LOVE

I SING not Love prose-mated
With Pride or Sense, soon sated,
Where give and take are rated
 In terms of bargain-buyer;
Nor Love that sells her dearly
For so much shelter yearly,
As Cupid's torch were merely
 To light the kitchen fire;

Nor Love that lingers, longing,
In reasoned absence, wronging
The soul's desires, thronging
 As pleading angels bend;
Nor Love that never misses
The mate's estrangèd kisses,
And is, of former blisses,
 Content to keep — a friend;

Nor prudish Love repressive
That, lest it seem aggressive,
With modesty excessive
 Deems maiden more than wife;
Nor Love that fain would fetter
The spirit with the letter,
As there were something better
 Than holy human life.

But Love, of Fate elected,
That, coming unexpected,
Can never be rejected —
 The sea no shore can stop;
That waits not to be bidden,
And answers not when chidden,
And can no more be hidden
 Than flame on mountain-top.

Such Love need not beleaguer
A garrison so meager
With its commander eager
 To say the craven word,—
Who prays not heaven to send her
A champion to defend her,
Rejoicing to surrender
 When Love's demand is heard.

Give me the Love O'erflowing,
The fond eye's fervent glowing,
The tranced heart out-going
 To meet both soul and sense;
The Love whose years are reckoned
By day, by hour, by second
When some new wonder beckoned
 To some new joy intense.

No calculated passion
Of artificial fashion,
But nature's daily ration —
 The feast of Youth and Age;
Defying Time's estranging
Untiring and unchanging,
Without a thought of ranging —
 The song without the cage.

THE MARCHING-SONG

*Lonely the forest to him who threads it without a
companion;*

*Lonely the sea when its lonely fog lifts upon sail-less
horizon;*

*Lonelier populous city to one without comrades or kindred;
Lonelier still when the moonlight—in language invented
by lovers—*

*Speaks of the nights that are gone and the places it, only,
remembers.*

Thus, longing for forest or sea, I sat, in the heat of the
city,

My only companion the friend to whom I was writing
my envy,

When out of the distance there floated a beautiful
choral of voices.

Nearer and nearer they came while I, from my balcony
leaning,

Drank with the thirst of the desert the gladdening
draught of the music.

Twenty the count of the striplings who marched with a
rhythmical footfall,
Joyous the trebles, exultant the tenors, and solemn the
basses,—
They and their song of a harmony perfect and full and
reciprocal,
Music that moistened the eyes long after the singers
departed.

Who could they be — thus to add to the beautiful night
a new beauty?
Friends, of some serious purpose, united more strongly
in singing.
Surely not sons of the rich, for the rich are united in
nothing.
Riches divide, and scant is the friendship based only
on plenty.
These were no roysterers breaking the rhythm of night
with their discord,
Who find no diversion worth while that makes not
unhappy their fellows;
Rather some guild of the poor returning from study or
pleasure,
Stronger by toil or by rest, each with the strength of
his fellows;

Buoyant with youth, glad with hope and in sympathy
banded,
Marching serenely as one, helpfully, shoulder to
shoulder.

Back to my letter I went and with shame I destroyed
my repinings.
I thought how the song would have fitted the eloquent
vision of Whitman,—
Pondered the spirit of comradeship shown in these
marchers courageous.

Lonely though sometime it seems, our wine-press of
toil or of sorrow,
Brothers, we move to one ultimate goal, in invisible
phalanx,
In columns as wide as the world and as long as the
slow-growing ages.
I know you are there by the grasp of your hands and
the cheer of your voices.

RECOGNITION

“O FRIEND of other days”—

 You start, at our first meeting,
 To hear the cordial greeting,
And search the past for warrant of the phrase.

“My soul,” you say, “have I forgot

 Some memorable hour and spot

 When, with long-clasping hand

And confident demand,

 Mine eye its tribute took

 In level, lingering look?

Or, in some age of yore

Trod we this path before?”

But why look back for treasure? Many a star
Was undiscovered once. Our choicest good
Was erst an unseen angel; long she stood
So near we knew not and esteemed it far,
For what to her was veil to us was bar.

No, not quite yet that moment, rich but dumb,
 Of friendship's troth the sum.
 We tread the same path toward it: we but hear
 The inland tide to know the ocean near.
 'T is to the future, not the past, must be
 Your staunchest loyalty,
 O Friend of other days — to come!

A MESSAGE BACK TO YOUTH

THEY told me " Youth is all revolt,
And age is all repose ";
That Time would medicine my fault,
As every graybeard knows;

Him whom the misty Morn deceives
Sage Noon from doubt would wean,
As the sapling of the restless leaves
Becomes an oak serene.

They told me Love was strongest there,
Unbridled by Content;
Life's tame meridian years could ne'er
Know passion so unpent.

I heard their whispered counselings:
" Be patient with his dreams,
Time to the best ideal brings
The verdict ' It but seems.' "

But I have found not as they planned
The scheme of good and ill.
Though full in sight of Age I stand,
I am a rebel still.

For me and for my kind I feel
The pathos of mistake,
And covet knowledge for my zeal
To help the world awake.

I find in labyrinthine wrong
But one — Love's silken — clew.
The way from what we know, how long
It lies, to what we do!

Since there be wings the blue to cleave,
Why be content to plod?
Were man less laggard, he might leave
The patience unto God.

Still the weird figures in the mist,
That held my youth in awe,
Defy the toil of analyst
To range them into law.

And Love? — What all the youthful fire
 (They said would die so soon),
To wiser man's mature desire
 But dawn compared to noon?

And though within my happy sight
 My children's children play,
I find no fading of the light
 That made my magic day.

The clearer vision but discerns
 The needs that Youth foreknew:
More wonderful the sun that turns
 To rainbow in the dew.

The world's heart still in Music beats
 Against this heart of mine,
That, more than ever, gladly greets
 Day's pageantry divine.

Still unappeased the boy's desire,
 Still tireless is the quest;
As to the summit leaps the fire,
 The better seeks the best.

DAPHNE

YES, I grant you, she is pretty, with the pink of early
morn,

Pretty as the palest rose-leaf ever blushed above a
thorn;

And her backward look is saucy, and the quick toss
of her head —

Well, a boy likes chasing better if the colt *be* thorough-
bred.

And her mouth — 't was made for smiling, winning
you against your will

With its Cupid's bow and dainty teeth, like young
cadets a-drill,

And the careless pagan laughter, such as by the
river's brink

Charmed Apollo in *his* Daphne as 't were some de-
licious drink.

Yes, I own my heart does answer to the blitheness of
her call.

Still, there's something that is wanting in our
Daphne, after all.

I, who hold no woman perfect sans a spice of the
coquette,

Find a curving eyelash lovelier that it sometimes
should be wet.

And they say the way is weary for the man that fol-
lows whim

Till the brilliance of the little lawless graces shall
grow dim;

And the girl's piquant surprises may be tedious in the
wife,

And the pin-pricks of the sapling toughen to the
goads of life.

Then, my boy, beware of Daphne. Learn a lesson
from the rat:

What is cunning in the kitten may be cruel in the cat.
In the game of life the trump is, not the spade of
crafty art,

Power's club, or riches' diamond, but, believe me,
boy, Love's heart.

THE TRUE BIBLIOPHILE

WHAT is a bibliophile? Mere lover
Of Whatman page and Mearne-made cover,
Of crushed levant whereround doth hover

A rare aroma?

Whose bookcase, double-locked, affords
Such ancient treasures bound in boards
One has suspicions that it hoards

An MS. Homer?

What is a bibliophile? Mere seeker
For finds to make all rivals meeker —
Now down in Ann Street, now in Bleecker,
To lose no chance

That some neglected shop may show
A fine unopened, pristine Poe,
Flanked by an unfoxed Folio,
With provenance?

What is a bibliophile? Mere sigher
For Trautz, Derôme and Payne? A buyer
Of Incunabula by wire,
Or tall Bodoni? —

Who, in his dreams, of sales doth rave,
To others' bidding still a slave,
And oft to many a bookish knave
Who claims him crony?

These things I do not hold as guile;
But must one, as a bibliophile,
Be captive on a treasure isle
And live as lonely?
'T were better not to hoard or spend,
Better to borrow books — or lend —
And know, like Field's o'er-pitied friend,
Their insides only.

Give me the man who's always finding
His heart imbedded in the binding,
With threads of love about it winding —
A book no longer;
Who laughs with Lever, smiles with Lamb,
Spouts "rare Ben Jonson," or with Sam
Learns to despise the great world's sham,
And so grows stronger.

Ah! though you have all Rosinantes
Were ever drawn for blithe Cervantes,
And all the text of all the Dantes,
 'T will little profit
If you shall feel not in the Knight
The pathos of his human plight,
Or share not in the Stygian sight
 The terror of it.

"PELLÉAS ET MÉLISANDE"

(INSCRIBED TO MISS MARY GARDEN IN ADMIRATION
OF HER BEAUTIFUL IMPERSONATION)

WHAT is there more of love to tell in rhyme
Than in this piteous chronicle is told —
This year-long epic of the heart, as old
As ivied tower deep in dust and grime,
And yet as new as the young leaves that climb
To lovers' casements? 'T is a tale of gold —
Crown, ring, and tresses — slipping from the hold
Of woodland innocence, the sport of Time.

Read the dark legend told in terms of light:
The mist-hung sea; the somber forest noon;
Swift clouds of peril; twilight's closing gate
To what were prison but for the amorous moon;
Then weep, with tears that make us wise, her plight
Who, dove-like, flutters in the net of fate.

WATERS OF SONG

TIME was when Avon's unrenowned stream,
Save for its beauty, unregarded flowed;
Once Arno even as other rivers glowed,
For then it had not mirrored Dante's dream.
How vague the gray Levantine sea did seem
Ere Homer charted all the stormy road!
The Psalmist who by Babylon abode
Forever linked with grief the willow's gleam.

Think you there are no other waters fit
To be rechristened with a poet's name?
Is Nature bankrupt? — man's last beacon lit?
Believe it never! Unborn bards such fame
On undiscovered rivers may bestow
As shall to fable banish Nile and Po.



V

SAINT-GAUDENS: AN ODE

TO FRANK HALL SCOTT

SAINT-GAUDENS *

BORN IN DUBLIN, IRELAND, MARCH 1, 1848 — DIED IN
CORNISH, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AUGUST 3, 1907

I

UPLANDS of Cornish! Ye, that yesterday
Were only beauteous, now are consecrate.
Exalted are your humble slopes, to mate
Proud Settignano and Fiesole,
For her new-born is Italy's new birth of Art.
In your belovèd precincts of repose
Now is the laurel lovelier than the rose.
Henceforth there shall be seen
An unaccustomed glory in the sheen
Of yonder lingering river, overleant with green,
Whose fountains hither happily shall start,
Like eager Umbrian rills, that kiss and part,
For that their course will run
One to the Tiber, to the Arno one.
O hills of Cornish! chalice of our spilled wine,
Ye shall become a shrine,

* Read, in part, November 20, 1909, in New York at the presentation to Mrs. Saint-Gaudens of the gold medal of the National Institute of Arts and Letters awarded to the sculptor's work.

For now our Donatello is no more!
 He who could pour
His spirit into clay, has lost the clay he wore,
 And Death, again, at last,
Has robbed the Future to enrich the Past.
 He, who so often stood
At joyous worship in your Sacred Wood,
 He shall be missed
As autumn meadows miss the lark,
Where Summer and Song were wont to keep melodious
 tryst.
His fellows of the triple guild shall hark
For his least whisper in the starry dark.
Here, in his memory, Youth shall dedicate
Laborious years to that unfolding which is Fate.
 By Beauty's faintest gleams
She shall be followed over glades and streams.
 And all that is shall be forgot
 For what is not;
And every common path shall lead to dreams.

II

POET of Cornish; comrade of his days:
 When late we met,
With his remembrance how thine eyes were wet!
 Thy faltering voice his praise

More eloquently did rehearse
Than on his festal day thy liquid verse.
Since once to love is never to forget,
Let us defer our plaint of private sorrow
Till some less unethereal to-morrow.

To-day is not the poet's shame
But the dull world's; not yet
Shall it be kindled at the living flame
Whose treasured embers
Ever the world remembers.

Not so the sculptor — his immediate bays
No hostile climate withers or delays.
Let us forego the debt of friendly duty;
A nation newly is bereft of beauty.
Sing with me now his undeferrèd fame,—

For Time impatient is to set
This jewel in his country's coronet.
When all men with new accent speak his name,
And all are blended in a vast regret,
There is no place for grief of thee or me:
One reckons not the rivers in the sea.
Sing not to-day the hearth despoiled of fire:

Ours be the trumpet, not the lyre.
Death makes the great
The treasure and the sorrow of the State.
Nor is it less bereaved
By what is unachieved.

Oh, what a miracle is Fame!
We carve some lately unfamiliar name
Upon an outer wall, as challenge to the sun;
And half its claim
Is deathless work undone.

Although the story of our art is brief,
Thrice in the record, at a fadeless leaf,
Falls an unfinished chapter; thrice the flower
Closed ere the noonday glory drank its dew;
Thrice have we lost of promise and of power —
The torch extinguished at its brightest hour —
His comrades all, for whom he twined the rue.

But though they stand authentic and apart
This is in our new land the first great grief of Art.

III

YET, sound for him the trumpet, not the lyre —
Him of the ardent, not the smouldering, fire:
Whose boyhood knew full streets of martial song
When the slow purpose of the throng
Flamed to a new religion, and a soul.
He knew the lure of flags; caught first the far
drums' roll;

Thrilled with the flash that runs
Along the slanted guns;

Kept time to the determined feet
 That ominously beat
 Upon the city's floor
 The firm, mad rhythm of war.
 With envious enterprise
 He saw the serried eyes
 That, level to the hour's demand,
 Looked straight toward Duty's promised land.
 That to be boy was to be prisoned fast
 With the great world of battle sweeping past,
 While every hill and hollow
 Heard the heart-melting music, calling "Follow!"
 The day o'er-brimmed with longing and the night
 With beckoning dreams of many a dauntless fight,
 As though doomed heroes summoned us to see
 Thermopylæ and Marathons.
 — Ah, had he known who was to be
 Their laureate in bronze!

But who can read To-morrow in To-day?
 Fame makes no bargain with us, will not say
 Do thus, and thou shalt gain, or thus and lose;
 Nay, will not let us for another choose
 The trodden and the lighted way.
 She burns the accepted pattern, breaks the mould,
 Prefers the novel to the old,

Revels in secrets and surprise;
And while the wise
Seek knowledge at the sages' gate
The schoolboy by a truant path keeps rendezvous with
Fate.

IV

THIS is the honey in the lion's jaws:
That from the reverberant roar
And wrack of savage war
Art saves a sweet repose, by mystic laws
Not by long labor learned
But by keen love discerned;
For this it bears the palm:
To show the storms of life in terms of calm.
Not what he knew but what he felt,
Gave secret power to this Celt.
Master of harmony, his sense could find
A bond of likeness among things diverse,
And could their forms in beauty so immerse
That to the enchanted mind
Ideal and real seem a single kind.

Behold our gaunt Crusader, grimly brave,
The swooping eagle in his face,

The very genius of command,
And her not less, with her imperious hand,—
The herald Victory holding equal pace.
 Not trulier in the blast
 Moves prow with mast;
Line mates with flowing line, as wave with following
 wave —
 Rider and homely horse
 Intent upon their course
As though she went not with them. Near or far,
One is their import: she the dream, the star —
And he the prose, the iron thrust — of War.

v

So, on the traveled verge
Of storied Boston's green acropolis
That sculptured music, that immortal dirge
 That better than towering shaft
 Has fitly epitaphed
The hated ranks men did not dare to hiss!
When Duty makes her clarion call to Ease
 Let her repair and point to this:
 Why seek another clime?
 Why seek another place?
We have no Parthenon, but a nobler frieze,—

Since sacrifice than worship nobler is.
It sings — the anthem of a rescued race;
It moves — the epic of a patriot time,
And each heroic figure makes a martial rhyme.
How like ten thousand treads that little band,
Fit for the van of armies! What command
Sits in that saddle! What renouncing will!
What portent grave of firm-confronted ill!
And as a cloud doth hover over sea,
Born from its waters and returning there,
Fame, sprung from thoughts of mortals, swims the
air
And gives them back her memories, deathlessly.

VI

I WEPT by Lincoln's pall when children's tears,
That saddest of the nation's years,
Were reckoned in the census of her grief;
And flooding every eye,
Of low estate or high,
The crystal sign of sorrow made men peers.
The raindrop on the April leaf
Was not more unashamed. Hand spoke to hand
A universal language; and whene'er
The hopeful met 't was but to mingle their despair.

Our yesterday's war-widowed land
To-day was orphaned. Its victorious voice
Lost memory of the power to rejoice.
For he whom all had learned to love was prone.
The weak had slain the mighty; by a whim
The ordered edifice was overthrown
And lay in futile ruin, mute and dim.

O Death, thou sculptor without art,
What didst thou to the Lincoln of our heart?

Where was the manly eye

That conquered enmity?

Where was the gentle smile

So innocent of guile —

The message of good-will

To all men, whether good or ill?

Where shall we trace

Those treasured lines, half humor and half pain,

That made him doubly brother to the race?

For these, O Death, we search thy mask in vain!

Yet shall the Future be not all bereft:

Not without witness shall its eyes be left.

The soul, again, is visible through Art,

Servant of God and Man. The immortal part

Lives in the miracle of a kindred mind,
That found itself in seeking for its kind.
The humble by the humble is discerned;
And he whose melancholy broke in sunny wit
Could be no stranger unto him who turned
From sad to gay, as though in jest he learned
Some mystery of sorrow. It was writ:
*The hand that shapes us Lincoln must be strong
As his that righted our bequeathèd wrong;
The heart that shows us Lincoln must be brave,
An equal comrade unto king or slave;
The mind that gives us Lincoln must be clear
As that of seer*

*To fathom deeps of faith abiding under tides of
fear.*

What wonder Fame, impatient, will not wait
To call her sculptor great

Who keeps for us in bronze the soul that saved the
State!

VII

MOST fair his dreams and visions when he dwelt
His spirit's comrade. Meager was his speech
Of things celestial, save in line and mould;
But sudden cloud-rift may reveal a star /

As surely as the unimpeded sky.
The deer has its deep forest of retreat:
Shall the shy spirit have none? Be, then,
The covert unprofaned wherein withdrew
The soul that 'neath his pensive ardor lay?
Find the last frontier — Man is still unknown
ground.

Things true and beautiful made a heaven for him.
Childhood, the sunrise of the spirit world,
Yielded its limpid secrets to his eye.
He was in Friendship what he was in Art —
Wax to receive and metal to endure.
Looking upon his warriors facing death,
Heroes seem human, such as all might be
Yet not without the consecrating will!
Age is serener by his honoring;
And when he sought the temple's inmost fane
The angels of his Adoration lent
Old hopes new glory, and his reverent hand
Wrought like Beato at the face of Christ.

But what is this that, neither Hope nor Doom,
Waits with eternal patience at a tomb?
A brooding spirit without name or date,

Or race, or nation, or belief;
Beyond the reach of joy or grief,
Above the plane of wrong or right;
A riddle only to the sorrowless; the mate
Of all the elements in calm — still winter night,
Sea after tempest, time-scarred mountain height;
Passive as Buddha, single as the Sphinx,—
Yet neither that sweet god that seems to smile
On mortal good and guile,
Nor wide-eyed monster that into Egypt sinks
And Beast and Nature links;
But something human, with an inward sense
Profound, but nevermore intense;
And though it doth not stoop to teach,
It will with each
Attuned to beauty hold a muted speech;
In its Madonna-lidded meditation
Not more a mystery than a revelation;
Listen! It doth to Man the Universe relate.
O Sentinel before the Future's Gate!
If thou be Fate, art thou not still *our* Fate?

For those who fain would live, but must breathe on
Prisoners of this prosaic age —
Ah, who for them shall read that page
Since wingèd Shelley and wise Emerson are gone?

VIII

How shall we honor him and in his place
His comrades of the Old and Happy Race
Whose Art is refuge Sorrow comes not nigh,
Though Art be twin to Sorrow? They reply
From all the centuries they outsoar,

From every shore

Of that three-continented sea
To which the streams of our antiquity

Fell swift and joyously:

"How, but to live with Beauty?"

Across our Western world without surcease
How many a column sounds the name of Greece!
The sun, loth-lingering on the crest of Rome,
Finds here how many an imitative dome!
O classic quarries of our modern thought,
What blasphemies in stone from you are wrought!
For though to Law, Religion, or the State,
These stones to Beauty first are dedicate,
Yet to what purpose, if we but revere
The temple, not the goddess? — if whene'er
The magic of her deep obsession seem
To master any soul, we call it dream?

Come, let us live with Beauty!

Her name is ever on our lips; but who
Holds Beauty as the fairest bride to woo?
The gods oft wedded mortals: now alone
May man the Chief Immortal make his own.
To Time each day adds increment of age
But Beauty ne'er grows old. There is no gauge
To count the glories of the counted hours.
Flowers die, but not the ecstasy of flowers.

Come, let us live with Beauty!

What infinite treasure hers! and what small need
Of our cramped natures, whose misguided greed,
Hound-like, pursues false trails of Luxury
Or sodden Comfort! Who shall call us free —
Content if but some casual wafture come
From fields Elysian, where the valleys bloom
With life delectable? Such happy air
Should be the light we live in; unaware
It should be breathed, till man retrieves the joy
Philosophy has wrested from the boy.

Come, let us live with Beauty!

Who shall put limit to her sovereignty?

Who shall her loveliness define?

Think you the Graces only three? —

The Muses only nine?

Beyond our star-sown deep of space

Where, as for solace, huddles world with world
 (A human instinct in the primal wrack),
 Mayhap there is a dark and desert place

Of deeper awe

With but one outer star, there hurled
 By cataclysm and there held in leash by law:
 If lonely be that star, 't is not for Beauty's lack.
 She was ere there was any need of Truth,
 She was ere there was any stir of Love;
 And when Man came, and made her world uncouth
 With sin, and cities, and the gash of hills
 And forests, and a thousand brutish ills,—

Moved by eternal ruth

She hid her wounds and gave him, from above,
 The magic all his happiness is fashioned of.

IX

KNIGHTS of the five arts that our sculptor prized:
 How shall ye honor him and, in his place,
 Those others of the Old and Happy Race
 Who lived for beauty, and the golden lure despised?

Painter of music, Architect of song,
 Sculptor in color, Poet in clay and bronze,

And thou whose unsubstantial fancy builds
Abiding symphonies from stone and space!
Mount ye to large horizons: ever be
As avid of other beauty as your own.
As nations greater are than all their states,
More than the sum of all the arts is Art.
High are their clear commands, but Art herself
Makes holier summons. Ever open stand
The doors of her free temple. At her shrine
In service of the world, whose hurt she heals,
Ye, too, physicians of the mind and heart —
Shall ye not take the Hippocratic oath?
Have ye not heard the voices of the night
Call you from kindred, comfort, sloth and praise,
To lead into the light the willing feet
That grope for order, harmony and joy? —
To reach full hands of bounty unto those
Who starve for beauty in our glut of gold?

How shall we honor him whom we revere —
Lover of all the arts and of his land?
How, but to cherish Beauty's every flower? —
How, but to live with Beauty, and so be
Apostles of Rejoicing to mankind?

VI

LATER POEMS OF OCCASION

A MEMORY OF BRITTANY

I

KNOW you drowsy Pont Aven,
Once the shaggy painter's den,
Still beloved of painter sleek;
Where a morning is a week,
Where the clear stream's litany —
Older than old Brittany —
Murmurs droningly between
Two half-towns of gray and green
Snugly tucked among the hills;
Where a dozen lazy mills
Slowly turn, and grudgingly
Creeps the river to the sea?
(In wakeful nights I'll sleep again
By remembering Pont Aven.)

II

AH, ere you begin to scoff
See the Pont Avennaise' *coiffe*,
Snow-white over pink or blue,
Gaily set upon her crown,
As though she set her cap for you;
While coquettish ends fall down
To the wide, ribbed linen, set
Round her round neck brown and strong —
Half collar and half epaulette —
Making Hogarth's line along
Either shoulder. (Queens, go hide
Your envy of the Breton bride.)
Breton gallants need no lure
To the beechen Bois d'Amour
Where she walks so light and free,—
Bringing to my memory
Her who made, when all had gone,
A processional of one.
(Heart, when thou art saddest, then
Think of her and Pont Aven.)

III

BUT there 's something more to say
Of our Bretonne, comely, gay:
Ready to the calls of life,
Joyous mother, faithful wife;
Knowing nothing of the pity
Lavished on her by the city —
Nothing of the "Where?" and "Whence?"
That make our life of outward sense
An interchange of discontents.
Love of country, love of soil,
Face of patience, hand of toil,
Smile of kindness, humble faith,
Good for life and good for death.
Fail the harvest, land or sea,
Ne'er shall fail her industry.
O'er her needle she will bend
As her comrade and her friend.
(Oh, if friends prove false, shall I
Unto fate or Heaven cry?
No, I 'll courage find again
By remembering Pont Aven.)

PRETTY KITTY PICKERING

WHAT a curious world is this —
Things we crave and things we miss!
All the men are dickering,
Half the women bickering,
Moth-wings caught within the wax keep the candles
flickering.
Commerce and society
Bring the same satiety.
Love alone seems worth the while! . . .
Yet upon how few may smile
Pretty Kitty Pickering.

What a curious world is this —
Living, dying, for a kiss!
Boys at lovers snickering,
Jilted men a-liquoring,
Every maid upon her hand longing for a thicker ring,—
Finding in distraction
Never satisfaction.
Yet to lose love were worth while
Had you known her winsome smile —
Pretty Kitty Pickering.

TO A MAPLE LEAF IN AUTUMN

("We all do fade as a leaf")

How like to Man art thou!

Canst thou thy change foresee —
What leaf upon the bough,
What bough upon the tree?

It was but yestere'en

Thou wert a loyal part
Of Summer's solid green
That stirred the grateful heart.

But Night upon thee blew

With pale and frosty breath,
And left thy natural hue
Aflame in glorious death.

Or was there from thy birth

An ichor in thy blood,
Transmuting the dull earth
To Autumn's golden flood?

Thy going is not grief:
Thy splendor shall but make
Soil for another leaf
That follows in thy wake.

I in my Autumn hour
Do envy thee in thine:
Thy joy-diffusing power,
The year's consummate wine.

The light of yonder tree
My keenest hurt doth salve;
Better the gold we see
Than all the gold we have.

When my green strength be stayed,
And frost shall summon me,
If like a leaf I fade,
Oh, let me fade like thee!

THE MESSAGE OF FULTON

(ACROSTIC READ AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE NEW
"CLERMONT," JULY 10, 1909)

RIVER of Plenty and the Peace of God —

Of all His streams the chosen since His feet
By thy round cliffs our new-world beauty trod —
(Eldest of all our soil His face to greet:)

Rejoice anew, O River of the Heart,
To have in human glory such a part!

From out the heights of Fame's diviner air

Unto his kind this message and this call:
Labor is Happiness and Hope and Prayer;

There is no Progress but the good of all;
Of every bondage Love is the release,

Nor less with Time God's Plenty and His Peace.

THE CALL TO THE COLORS

I

ON the blood-watered soil of the Balkans
A Bulgar lies clenched with a Turk,
And the task of the cannon and rifle
Will be finished by fist and by dirk.
And the last word of hate — ere the rattle
Of death bids their enmity cease —
Does it call to the banners of battle
Or call to the colors of Peace?

II

IN the purlieus of sin-befogged cities,
Slow food of neglect and of pest,
How many a mother lies dying,
With to-morrow's pale scourge at her breast!
And the bread-cry that serves for the prattle
Of orphans — (oh, when shall it cease?) —
Does it call to the banners of battle,
Or call to the colors of Peace?

III

I hear from my window this morning
The shout of a soldiering boy;
And a note in his proud pleasure wounds me
With the grief that is presaged by joy.
I hear not the drum's noisy rattle
For the groan of one hero's release:
Does it call to the banners of battle,
Or call to the colors of Peace?

IV

O ye of the God-given voices,
My poets, of whom I am proud,
Who trumpet the true and the real
When illusions are dazzling the crowd:
Go, turn men from wolves and from cattle,
Till Love be the one Golden Fleece.
Oh, call us no more unto battle,
But call to the colors of Peace!

TO NEW YORK, AWAKENING

(READ AT THE ALDINE CLUB DINNER TO
DISTRICT-ATTORNEY CHARLES S. WHITMAN,
NOVEMBER 22, 1912)

O CITY of a thousand towers —
And every tower a city! Seen from far,
When homesick travelers tread the lagging ship,
And find their thought enstatued in high bronze,
How beautiful thou art, how strong, how dear!
Half-veiled by April's morning mist, thou art
A dream of Orient fancy, mirrored white
On hospitable waters. From thy roofs,
Like bannered army, flies the cloudy breath
Of onward-pressing Commerce. In the hush
Of brown November evenings, thou dost flower,
Before the sky, in constellated light.
New power has brought thee beauty new and rare.
Sated with Europe, our still hungry eyes
Covet our own. And as we look with pride
On rock-set walls we say: So deep, so high
Be Freedom's structure, buttressed by the law.

Here shall the Old World's poor, the Old World's
waif,

Retreating from their fate, forever find
In thee the refuge of an open door —
A fortress, such as fearful races built
In the dim ages on securest hills.

Oh, shall this vision be but naught? — this torch
Extinguished? — this world-hope be quenched?
Is this piled marble meant for Manhood's tomb?
Is there no Soul within these iron ribs?
Is there no music but the clink of coin?
Is blood on every lintel? Do all doors
Fall open only to a golden key?
Shalt thou go down with Babylon and Tyre
To fellow and grovel and batten with the beast?
No! rise from sleep the giant that thou art,
And break the bonds of long, complacent years.
Think on the Past: its heroes died for thee;
Think on the Future, lest it spurn thy clay.
Follow the vision, listen to the voice
Beckoning from heights trod only by the brave:
"Man is as mighty as his noblest dream."

TO ONE WHO DESPAIRED OF THE
REPUBLIC

PAINT black with peril what the Time portends;
Breathe, if thou wilt, but stifling hopelessness;
Brood on Man's swift decline from small to less —
The beast that wallows or the beast that rends:
 Yet shall the Good prevail,
 We shall not fail!

Blush for our country's dignity and fame,
Forgot by those who rob us of our pride;
Deplore the sleepers at the altar's side
While madmen light their torch at Freedom's flame:
 Yet shall the Good prevail,
 We shall not fail!

Yea, shudder at the temple strewn with coin;
Law leaning on the broken sword of Force;
And streams of weakness, come from many a source,
In one wild flood of turbulence to join.
 Yet shall the Good prevail,
 We shall not fail!

Hast thou forgotten Heaven's patient plan?
From many a blacker chaos have we come.
Nature, a million heroes in her womb,
Doth ever answer to the need of Man.

So shall the Best prevail,
And we not fail!

THE VISION OF GETTYSBURG

(1863-1913)

I

WHAT if, that day, when on those tawny slopes,
Made as by Mars for battle, but till then
Still happily unhistoric, steeped in peace,
Two foes, of age-long enmity, drew near —
(Foes of torn forest and of trampled field,
Not in the smart apparel of parade
But long bedraggled with the toil of war,
Will matched with will, courage to courage set,
In tremulous expectancy of fate,
Each with the hopes of millions in reserve;) —

What if, while strong men nearer to their hearts
Pressed their worn amulets: a wisp of hair;
A woman's tear-stained letters; some small toy;
The penciled tracing of a baby's hand;
Likeness of child by father never seen,
To whom that father was to be a myth
Told by a lonely fireside through the years; —

What if, at that weak moment of the brave,
Before the sign of serried death was given,
The Angel of the Future, in a white dream
Of morning mist that blotted out the scene,
Had swept in solemn beauty down the lines,
Trailing a scroll of visioned prophecy,
Till all had seen that field with second sight,
And all had heard her words:

“ O warriors, stay!

Unshot be the cannon, sheathed the sword.
Look on this picture, half a century hence,
When ye, the tottering remnants who shall live
To mourn the comrades who to-day shall die,
Shall be again the brothers ye are now
But seem not now to be. Look close!
Who are those old who mimic the assault
Ye face to-day, crossing this very ground
To meet not Death but Love? See, clasped in peace,
Not clenched, your hands. Those heads of gray are
yours.

Time has outwept the colors of your flags,
The strife forgiven, all the hate forgot.
Sires of the not-yet-orphaned, will ye die? ”

With such a vision slowly fading back
From dream to dread, from dread to dream again,
Could one have given the awful word of death,
Or human hearts obeyed it?

Yes, ah yes!

In all great enterprises of the soul
The immediate duty is the strongest lure.
Not lightly did these follow the red trail,
Not for adventure, nor for murderous sport,
Nor glory, oft more sordid than grosser gain;
But for the stark necessity of Man
To heed his conscience' trumpet, lest he die
And live on, dead! So, that the God within,
Who haunts our coward days, might be appeased,
With war's momentum in their heated veins,
And with a Hebrew prophet's certainty,
Each called on Heaven for justice, and rushed on!

II

We say they fought each for the Right he saw.
There is but one good greater than the Right —
The imperishable Love of Right. That stays,
The needle of our destiny, howe'er

Its sentient tremblings momentarily may swerve.
God of the storm, the fog, the sinking sea,
Be praised for that deliverance!

And yet —

What if that strife, which all men said must be,
Solvent of error, touchstone of respect,
New bond of strength, *need never to have been?*

We doubt, but what shall ermined History say?
Somewhere in every devastating storm
Of hungry flame that sweeps the night with fear
Once lurked a primal spark not hard to quench;
Perchance it smouldered long in soft neglect
Till came a breeze, gentle as infant's breath,
And piled on peril ruin and dismay —
Ashes for beauty, as though patient years
Had been withdrawn from Time, to be consumed.
Of our dire conflagration who shall name
The careless passer, or the sleeping guard,
Or those who left the danger to their sons,
Trusting the futile trench of compromise?
Ah, name them boldly: the revered, the great,
Firstlings of fame in every patriot's thought,
The sculptured saints about the nation's fane,
Their faults forgotten, in a people's pride.

Men of that elder day, who gave us life,
Honor for what you did, but not, alas!
For what you left undone. For, when you built
The nation's temple, hallowing every stone
With sacrifice, you knew a serpent dwelt
'Neath its foundations, yet you took your ease
And left the poison of its brood to spread.
On you, on you the blood of Gettysburg!

III

For whom these fables? Are they not for us?
Are there not other serpents that demand
The firm Herculean grasp? And other fires
Mad with destructive spirit half subdued?
Must Wisdom's torch consume a hundred hills
That it may give us light to see our path
Into peace-haunted valleys?

Land of ours!
Not less they love thee who must chide the faults
Of those that serve thee. Be thou wise as strong —
Justice to-day thy fortress of to-morrow;
Better than battleships thine own Good Will;
The bond of all thy children Equal Laws,
Their pride thine Honor. Not unto thyself

Alone thou livest but to Space and Time!
Lead thou thy leaders, lead they not aright,
That, seeing clearly where our fathers failed,
We leave no legacy of wanton strife
As bones of prey to tempt the beast in Man,
Lest, surfeited with carnage, sadder days
Shall scorn our ashes, and impute to us
The squandered blood of Gettysburgs to come.

VII
POEMS OF WAR AND PEACE

THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED
TO THE IDEAL
IN PATRIOTISM, ART, AND
THE AFFECTIONS

GOETHALS OF PANAMA

I

SERVANT of Man, well done !

Thy war of peace is won.

The dream of continents five and centuries four

Is dream no more.

Once, on a waiting "peak in Darien,"

Obscure till then,

But made immortal by a single line

Of verse divine,

Bold Balboa, following the lure

Of fell Adventure's backward-glancing eyes,

Found the new wonder that he sought.

What did he not endure

That still another watery realm

He thus might add as kingdom to the Spanish helm !

Oh, joy supreme of half-divined surprise !—

When, foremost climber, to his heart he caught

The virgin sight of that uplifted sea,

As new, as free,

As though it had but just begun to be.

Then, as he knelt, a second dream there came :

The "wild surmise"

His silent followers felt, but could not frame.

For who could see so near those oceans flow

But wish them mated—nay, but see them so ?

Did he not dream that, far beneath, some day,
The hungry waters would devour a way
To slip his caravels and shallops through
From Cadiz to the riches of Peru?
How could he guess that it would be mankind,
Not Nature, that would find
In that Herculean toil a labor to its mind;
And do with zest, ere infant grew to man,
What only geologic ages can;
That what in him was vague, prophetic fancy
Thy modern necromancy—
Thy will, thy wisdom, and the art
Of thy unconquerable heart,
With Love and Duty pure,—
Would make forever real and secure;
That Bounteous Fortune on that distant height,
Where Occident with Orient meets,
Her faith anew to all the world would plight,
Beckoning with either hand to myriad-masted fleets?
There let her statue crown a crowning tower
Like to the topmost flower
Upon a tropic tree,
For every ship of every land to see.
There some shall speak of Balboa, some of Keats
(For one must find and one must celebrate);
Others shall ponder long the fame and feats
Of him who forced the bars of that reluctant gate—
Contending whether he was great;
But all in perpetuity
Shall bless the names of Gorgas and of thee!
Servant of Man, well done!

II

SINCE that first dream how long, how weary-long
Crept the slow, lonely centuries, with no heed
Of the premonitory need
Of that forgotten and neglected land—
Years like to years as waves upon that sleepy strand.
Now, through thy sympathetic strife,
The dozing Tropic is no more;
The world is at its door.
At last it is adjoined to Life,
To Freedom, and the brood
Of Human Brotherhood.
This is the meed
Of richer triumph in thy deed,—
The nation's pride that soon shall be a pride without
alloy:
That far beyond the Zone—
Ours only for the world to own,
Since that belongs to all that all alike enjoy—
By bond assured, not word of mouth,
We shall draw closer to the chivalrous South,
Reaching our hands in friendship, not in greed.
This is the leaping gladness in our song:
That, for the human throng
Who still, in every land, are slaves to ancient wrong,
Half realized, half understood,
Each sun may rise to greet a greater good.
There is a destiny in every need of man,
Though long, oh, weary-long

It wait in patience for the strong.
Who grasp it not may honor him who can :
Servant of Man, well done !

III

SOLDIER of Peace, all hail !
No longer by the Desperate Cape
Need the fagged mariner, within the maw
Of noonday darkness and the windy shape
Of winter gale,
Reef with his frozen hands the solid sail,
Praying, or cursing, as he thinks on pleachéd
Panama.
More hopefully shall Commerce now let slip
Her homing pigeons, knowing every ship
Hath chance of fairer sky
Whether its course shall lie
From Oregon's dark forests to the cheer
Of proud Manhattan, bright and clear ;
From London's sooty docks to many an isle of fear
That long has scarred the Western sea, but now
shall quicklier rise
Through Love and Law an earthly Paradise.
No longer shall the bark illimitably roam
That follows half the globe from Java or Japan ;
And they for lagging craft who gaze,
As only lovers can,
Shall count with blessing all the dwindling days
That bring the wandering heart the sooner home.

Now shall be saved not one mere month, but June!
Not three, but Love's long winter of delight!
Beauty of mountain, meadow slope and dune,
As grateful to the welcome traveler's sight
As the recaptured glory of a tune.

Now for a while shall he remain content,
As Life were meant
For fireside voyage or the Muses' flight—
High with Beethoven, or with Shakespeare far;
As if the lore of Fez or Zanzibar
Were that some curly-head
A little longer may delay the hour of bed,
Devouring tales in wonder, to be dreamed in
dread.

IV

SINCE the world's turbulent prime
One war has never ceased—the war with Time:
Our one right war of conquest, yielding spoil
Of years, of hours, of minutes. Why this toil
To be companion to the cloud,
To whisper with the Antipodes,
And, where no blade had ever plowed,
To carve a path for argosies?
Why should we win, at equal cost
Of take and give,
Of gained and lost,
Leisure for leisure, but more worthily to live?

Why agonize and struggle for repose,
Remote, uncertain, and unseen,—
If we impose
On every bud the fury to be rose ;
Spy on the seed to witness if it grows ;
Despoil the silver dawn of its serene ;
Startle the quiet dusk ; like Phaëton
Lashing the hours that draw the lagging sun ?
Were it worth while the precious years to save
That we may madly gallop to the grave ?
Oh, time, time, time !—boon that we daily crave
And waste in craving, losing as we save.
Misers of all beside, our spendthrift strife
Flings to each passing wind time that alone is life.

Now have we need of days for nobler use
Than savage barter, or patrician food,
Or ease that only childish joys amuse,
Or lawless pleasure mixed with manners rude.
For while we ponder progress, half the world
Has turned volcano, and aside has hurled
All that long ages built upon its heights.
Not time but life is squandered ; and the half
Of all the wheat is winnowed with the chaff.
From trusted harbors the familiar lights
By which we steered to safety have gone out
And left our laden hopes in drifting doubt.
Death, that was once God's servant, now is
Man's
And at his bidding speeds his monstrous
plans.

O marvel never sung to any lyre !
O certainty incredible and dire !
That one with anger thus could set his age on fire !
Of those who with cathedral-patience sought
Our liberty to buttress and uplift,
Who could have thought
The downward plunge to chaos was so swift?

Is life a false gem in our treasure store
Once richly prized, now richly prized no more,
And souls but sands beneath the waves of war?
Come, country of my heart, lest thy pure
pledge
Of hope to the unborn be sodden sacrilege,
Cry, though the cannon echoes, "Peace,
peace, peace!"
Summon thy hosts that kill not but increase:
Firm Justice, calm of Wisdom, fear of
Wrong;
Courage of Science, constancy of Law;
The poise of Knowledge and the glow of
Song;
Religion's solace, Doubt's still reverent awe;
Beauty, the smile of God, Music, His voice.
Oh, may these hold us sane and true,
Lift us from tears and teach us to rejoice,
Throw wide our prison doors
Self-built of jealousy and fear;
That ruined empires may through us renew
The long, slow march toward that millennial
year

When men shall be of universal love the
willing servitors.

v

O SOLDIER of our Peace,
If in this conflict thy great work shall be
Not thoroughfare of Honor and Amity,
But route of Conquest, avenue of Hate,
Way of Cupidity and road to Wrong,
Better those hills had never heard the din
Of steam and rivet, and the strong
And jubilant song
Of thy triumphant army, with one purpose kin.
Before it be too late
Adjourn the exultation of the State:
Let it await
An Age of Reason's more propitious date.
Borrow a lustrum to undo the toil,
Unhinge each mighty gate
And let it rust supine on desecrated soil.
Turn the robbed waters backward to the sea,
If in their magic mirror there shall be
No worthier vision of futurity.
The path to wonders, the alluring track,
Unto the jungle mournfully give back,
And let the lazy Isthmus creep
Again in misty silence to its sleep,
Until some sullen earthquake, like a god
Offended, where man's impious foot has trod,

Unwilling to be warder of his bones,
Indignantly regurgitates the cyclopèan stones.

VI

SOLDIER of Peaceful War!
Forgive us if our doubt shall mar
Thy victory, that has neither blot nor scar:
'T is for the moment, when the Muse's gaze
Wanders from thee. Our country is so dear
Her lovers may indulge a lover's fear.
Forgive us, too, a final word of praise:
That in these troublous days
Thy hand has written for the world to learn
A symphony of Labor, where we may discern
Life as a grander music than before.
Up to the heights that hide the sun
We hear the chorded tumult soar,
The cheer of morning ardor well begun—
A hundred instruments that blend as one:
The dominant whistle and the whirring wheel;
The ringing peal
Of falling steel on steel;
The rhythmic hammer and the trilling chain,
With intervals as palpable as pain;
The pulsing engine, the insistent drill,
Treble of steam and bass of roaring train,
With Echo making fugue from hill to hill.
O loyal orchestra by great composer led!
Thy touch on every string and key

Has wrought this noble minstrelsy,
Giving a soul to brass and wood inert or dead,
Till all confusions were in beauty wed,
And in the players and the theme
One harmony arose supreme—
Ungrudging service sounding like a psalm.
For this the palm!
Soldier of Peace, well done!

VII

BROTHER of Man, all hail!
Through such as thee and those that with thee
wrought
The world is daily saved—ay, ever saved shall be.
Not by some magic alchemy
By bended sages through the centuries sought;
Not by some cloistered mystery of life;
But by the sheer necessity of strife,
The long, unsacred treadmill of routine.
Oh, more puissant than the authentic mien
Of sceptred king or queen,
The virtues of the humble, ages-old,
That, like the Milky Way, forever hold
Their darkest night within a net of gold:
A natural faith the bookman cannot daunt,
Work, patience, discipline, the comradeship of
want,
And simple love assuaging sorrow gaunt.
Great is Invention! Do its annals mark

A single virtue newer than the Ark?
Praise, then, the staunch, the overpitied poor,
Who from their riches yet may save the rich,
And something dearer than the Koh-i-noor
Find for them in the mine or in the ditch.
Happy the hands that have but clinging soil
Of honest earth, unstained by blood or wrong,
That make a knighthood of their iron toil,
And even from a pittance save a song.
No overseer of Egyptian brood,
But comrade of their swarthy day, wert thou.
Of all that digged or hewed
None feared thy frown or for thy favor sued,
For lambent justice dwelt beneath thy brow.
Thy gentle strength, thy kindly calm,
Were for their bruises satisfying balm.
For this, to them and thee, the palm!

VIII

SERVANT of Man, well done!

Thy war of Peace is won.

The dream of continents five and centuries four
Is dream no more.

Now to new visions, than the old
More wonderful and bold.

Let sage and seer
Into the dark more confidently peer,
To find the boon in every shape of fear,

The cure that Nature holds for every hurt.
Now let some stripling, venturous and alert,
 Trailing a wilder thought
 Than Science yet has sought,
 Startle shy Knowledge from her inner lair.
Our best, that first was but a castle in the air,
 Let it be strong as fair.
Come true all happy tales to children told,
And cloth-of-frieze be turned to cloth-of-gold.
 Let the imprisoned mind
 But beat upon its bars, 't will find
The painted barriers made to break, not bind.
Man is Imagination's only heir:
His messengers of Dream and Dare
He launches from the teeming port of Night
 To overtake the flight
Of fleet-winged Progress, laden with new might,
Which to the foremost she lets fall,
The prize of one, the wealth of all.

Who can foretell what blessing may not hap
From this one hair-breadth line upon the map?
What treasure have we was not first a dream?
Seeing the Future but in flash and gleam,
Doubt we To-morrow? On the once-veiled track
Of opulent Yesterday, look back!
The arsenal of our courage is the Past—
The unforgotten great that did not yield,
The unremembered many left upon the field,
 Each loyal to his vision to the last.

IX

THEN come with pomp and joy of color-streaming
ships,
With shouts of their unshotted iron lips,
With choral song and no unnoble speech,
The good of all eclipsing good of each,
And, while like incense is the smoke upcurled,
Let this our child be sponsored by the world.

Then dedicate to dreams this dream fulfilled :
To Hope, the dream on which all dreams we build,
To Honor, what in honor was conceived,
To Brotherhood, whereby it was achieved,
To Peace, that there no hostile gun may sound
And all the Earth at last be holy ground ;
Ay, to that dream of dreams, most strangely
wrought,—
To Man, the Almighty's most amazing thought.

O Soldier of the blameless sword !
Who serves mankind is servant of the Lord.
Servant of God, well done !

THE CORRIDORS OF CONGRESS

(REVISITED IN VACATION)

TREAD soft, intruding step, this empty haunt
Of swirling crowds has sanctity of grief ;
Precincts of sadness are these gilded halls—
The silent crypts of far and turbulent years.
These stairways have been treadmills of despair,
Runways of greed these narrow passages—
The skirmish-lines of battles fought within,
Where many a hope, sore-wounded, struggled on
To perish in the din of others' joy.

Let Fancy listen at these listening walls
And give us back the record that they bear,—
These phonographs of sorrow, where are writ,
In Time's attenuated echoes, sounds
Not louder than the falling of a tear
Or sigh of lovers hiding from pursuit.
Fancy, our finer ear, may here disclose
Whispers of corner-born conspiracies ;
The embrasured window's furtive interview ;
The guarded plot ; the treacherous promise given ;
The tragedy that here was masked as hope.
Here the dark powers conspired, using as bribes
Our dearest virtues—goodness, friendship, love.
Here many who came with dawn upon the brow,
A voice of confidence, a knightly port,
Noble expectancy in every step,
Their own ambition with their country's, one,
Forgot their holy dreams beneath the stars,

Sunk in a noonday stupor of prudent air,
Or, caught by tyrannous currents of routine,
Swept, first resisting, then resisting not,
Into that pleasant land of Compromise
That neighbors Hell.

Here is the dryasdust

Who thinks in dollars, scorning sentiment ;
The township patriot, letting terrors rage
If only he be safe ; the timid good
For whose slow suffrage all the bold contend ;
The velvet orator whose magniloquence,
Prick it with wit, runs streams of Privilege ;
The soft-shod schemer, voice behind his hand,
And flattering arm about his victim's neck ;
The vulgar blusterer, to whom we trust
The jewel of the nation's dignity,
Who cannot guard his own ; and, faithful clog
About the feet of Progress, he who spurns
All as exotic not in his dooryard found,
Holding the riches of the world as toys :
Books as expedients to divert the mind
From the dull scenery 'twixt town and town ;
Art as an adult's picture-book, and Verse
But as a quarry for a funeral speech.

But one may read a cheerier record here :
The statesman rare, compact of bold and wise,
Loving his country like an ancient Greek,
Physician to the body politic,
And with physician-chivalry so imbued
The honest crave his voice, and every rogue
Reckons him enemy ; the sturdy drudge

Who knows the elusive fact cannot be caught
In nets of intuition,—sentinel
Upon the nation's treasure-castle walls,
Alert to stealthy peril in the night
From Waste the Traitor as from Greed the Foe;
The civic soldier, fighting for his land
As truly as the veteran who defied
Ambush of fen or forest, standing firm
To conscience' needle, though from every point
The shifting winds be clamoring for the wrong.
Oh, there 's a bravery greater than the assault
On ramparts flaming death when but the touch
Of comrade's shoulder gives the heart support,
When every leaping impulse to go on
Is multiplied to madness by the crowd,
And Life is but an alms by Duty flung.
Peace needs the stouter heart, the cooler mind;
The truceless warfare on the soul's frontiers
Calls for a lonelier fortitude; and oft
The man that will not yield an inch to blows
Can keep no barrier to tears. He that, alone,
Would feed his body to the hungry fire,
Let but a loved one plead, his will is wax.
Oh, in the unimpassioned scales of Time
More than the courage of momentum weighs
The courage of resistance, when to yield
Is easy as to breathe, and angels urge
"Only do naught and let the devil pass."

What Iliads of siege these walls could tell!
What shattered lines a hundred times retrieved
From lingering defeat—now by the swords,

Now by the shields, of some sworn group of knights—
To sweep at last to wreathèd victory!
What single combats while the hosts looked on!
What hopes forlorn that failed so gloriously
That History dropped her stylus to admire!

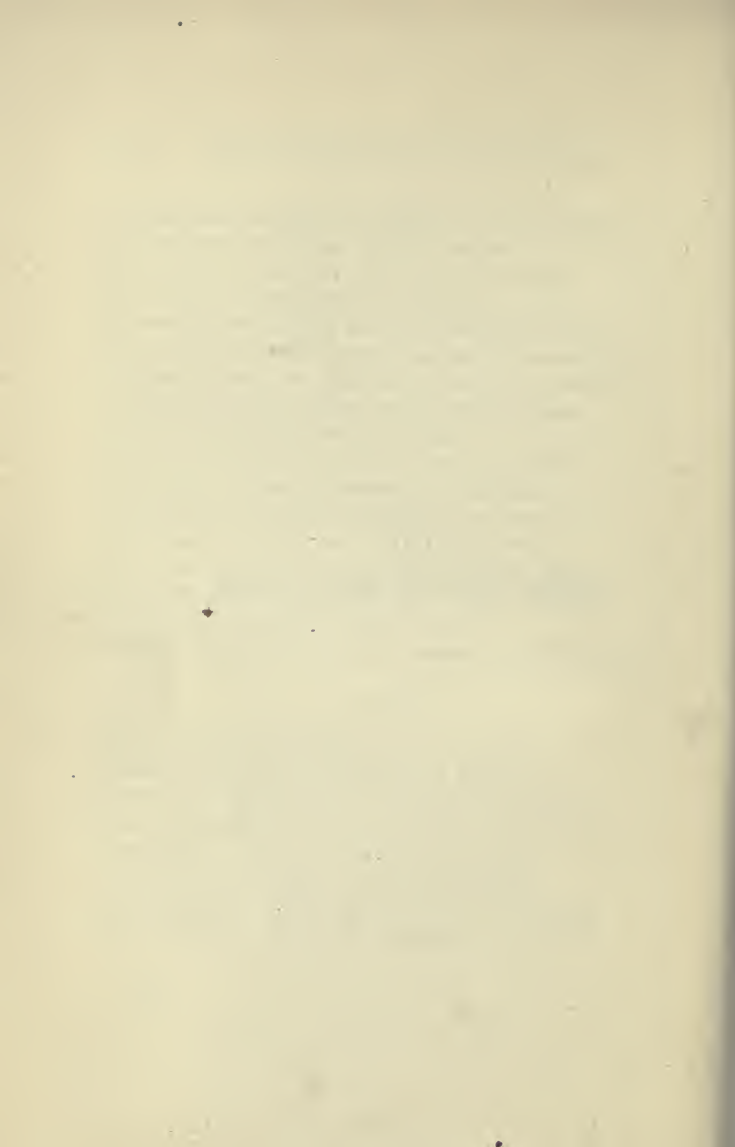
Of all the hands that held our fasces up,
I mind me of one servant of the State
Who walked these halls erect in body and mind.
Not to corroding ease he gave his days
But paid his country, coin for coin, in toil.
Her cut-purse enemies within her gates,
Her gentlemanly murderers of men's souls,—
Who with foul gold would poison every fount
Of Hope and Justice we have built for all,—
And their accomplices who smilingly
Betray a nation to oblige a friend,
Him came not nigh with their accursed arts,
To tempt, to beg, to threaten, to cajole.
Though richly gifted, he disprized his gifts—
Far vision, loyal reasoning, kindling speech,
And true intent that pilots in the dark.
Not faultless, he could frankly own his fault,
And salve with candor the impetuous wound.
While he was speaking nothing seemed of worth
But the high path he trod—not happiness,
Nor peace, nor love, nor leisured luxury,
Nor that acclaim of many called success,
But to be leader in the march of Man.
With more ambition, he had been of those
Who from its trance of comfort wake the world,
And leave a name to stir the pulse of youth.

Thoughtless of fame,—without the artist-sense
Of the deed's value miscalled vanity—
He left to chance the record of those days.
His tribute is the passionate regret
Of comrades fighting still, the respect of foes,
Who miss his swift sword and his dented shield.
Remembering how at one great breach he stood
Pleading for honor when men sued for gain,
I hear not only echoes of his voice
But strains of patriot music from the Past:
The harp of David, laureate of the Lord,
Sounding the spirit's summons to his race;
The lyre of Sophocles, half looking back
To cheer his followers, now as brave as he;
The horn of Roland, clear from brim to brim
Of Pyrenèan valleys, with its call,
“Come up and find your courage on the heights.”

ENVOI

Not only with a brother's pride and love
Weave I for him this coronal of verse—
Affection's salvage from the wreck of Time—
But with the hope that for some wavering soul,
Tempted to point of tension, it may turn
A cup of trembling to a cup of strength,
And make us prouder of the brave who guard
The walls that guard the freedom of the land.

VIII
POEMS OF THE GREAT WAR



THE COST

OF late we heard dark oracles proclaim

 In History's alluring name,

 And with no flush of shame,

The cure for all our civic ills is War!

And while they flaunt their flippant lore,

With hideous irony the hope-barred door

To Mars' red altar gapes, and forth there fare

With torch and sword the Furies, driven by one

Hailed as the god's bronze image come to life,

But, nearer seen, a pietistic Hun!

 With wild, fanatic air,

In Death's-head helmet and greaves worn with prayer,

He sets the unwilling world in myriad strife

To orphan Europe, plowing hill and mead

For Famine's harvest of the iron seed;

From that blue sea that knows no shore

On fair, defenseless towns lets slip

 The havoc of his pirate ship;

And, drowning conscience with the cannon's roar,

 Holds his frank perfidy

As part of a divine decree,

 While with a holy rage

 He wars upon his Age,

Till the pure Alps ensanguine every sea;

Now, with a rusted key unlocks

The evils of Pandora's box;

Stills the world's music, stays its daily joys ;
 Makes murderers of boys
Who yesterday made mimic murder at their toys ;
 Turns brotherhood to hate,
And floors the heavens with carnage that would sate
All devils but a devil incarnate !

Greater than Bonaparte?—Yes, by a century's cost
Of lives devoured, of fireside loving lost.

.

 O country mine !
Who shall seduce thee to such mad design ?
A nobler vision, happier fate be thine !

August 25, 1914.

TO THE PEACE PALACE AT THE HAGUE

BUILDED of Love and Joy and Faith and Hope,
Thou standest firm beyond the tides of war
That dash in gloom and fear and tempest-roar,
Beacon of Europe!—though wise pilots grope
Where trusted lights are lost; though the dread scope
Of storm is wider, deadlier than before;
Ay, though the very floods that strew the shore
Seem to obey some power turned misanthrope.

For thou art witness to a world's desire,
And when—oh, happiest of days!—shall cease
The throes by which our Age doth bring to birth
The fairest of her daughters, heavenly Peace,
When Man's red folly has been purged in fire,
Thou shalt be Capitol of all the Earth.

September 19, 1914.

RHEIMS

I

O FORTRESS of the Spirit, and thyself
But yesterday a soul! What art thou now
But walls and memory? Thou art than Man
Not more immortal, though from dawn to dawn
Of seven centuries thou heardest the tread
Of swarming generations plodding by.
Precinct of Peace,—now torn by wanton War;
Altar where Morning might her matins say
Or Evening chant her vespers,—now o'erthrown;
Refuge for ages to the unconsolated
By all but God forsaken: who hath dared
Thy sanctuary now to violate?
Thou that wert pride and cynosure of Art,
Trumpet of History, a nation's shrine,
Christener of Kings, a yearning world's delight,—
Thy mellow voice from out the faded Past
Is silent as thy belfry's sunken choir.

For this it is, although we nightly bear
The daily burden of mankind's distress
Till the vast anguish numbs the wearied sense,
Still heavier are our heavy hearts to-day.

II

How, with cold stone and scant and loveless toil,
Shall be rebuilt the spirit of this fane?
Who shall recloud its aisles with mystery,
Till the beholder views himself with awe?
How shall spilled wine, treasure of time and sun,
Be from the ground regathered? Who shall invent
The arts here lost, the accent of their speech?
Who shall replant the race, and then await
Its centuried ripening? Mourn, oh, mourn, mourn,
mourn

The brave that fall beneath this harvest moon
When Death's swift sickle flies—each in his calm
A ruined temple of the Living God!
They, too, are gone, but not as thou art gone,
For, though Love doubt, still clings our faith to this:
'T is but their bodies have been slain; but here,
Here, where the mortal craves celestial life,
Man has been able to destroy a soul!

III

Of what avail to find the vandal hands,
The few barbarians, by whose feeblest touch
This deed was wrought from far? They witness well
The paradox of life that frights our peace:
The weak is stronger than the strong! For who
To-day so built in greatness as to be

Armored against a whim? A paltry match
By malice struck, or mischief, and the town
Rushes to sky and earth in ruin!

Yet—

Shall we absolve the nameless for the known,
Who, choosing war, chose aught that war might bring
And murdered all this hoarded beauty? No,
Though they should vaunt a thousand victories
This is their dire defeat. Here have they reached
All that ambition coveted, reversed.
Thinking on Rheims hereafter, and on them,
The world's heart shall grow leaden with dismay,
And age to age the shame reverberate
So loud, so far, that legions yet unborn,
Learning their loss, shall execrate the crime
And, grieving, mingle pity with their blame.

September 28, 1914.

TO THE SPIRIT OF BYRON

"The Niobe of nations."

CHILDE HAROLD.

I

THOU more than poet, Freedom's laureate,
Byron! Although some tyrant hand should blot
All pages that to her are consecrate
By loyal bards—thus doomed to be forgot—
Who should despair if thine were quenched not?
Oh, for thy voice when the world's heart is wrung
At Honor made a barrack-jest and plot!
To what invective hadst thou given tongue!
Mourner of Rome, what dirge for Belgium hadst thou
sung!

II

What of *her* children ravaged from her heart—
Those cities proud of lore and fair of mien:
Liège, that cradled Charlemagne; that mart
Of many seas, rich Antwerp; old Malines;
And royal Brussels seated like a queen;
Bruges the melodious, and flowery Ghent,
And wise Louvain? . . . Oh, Byron, hadst thou
seen
The tears and terror, who could be content
By lesser song than thine that grief and blame be blent?

III

Revered is Valor—ay, but Honor more.

A score of centuries doth History save
Cæsar's "brave Belgians": for how many a score
Shall live the word these to the Teuton gave
When they must choose dishonor or the grave!

They knew before they took Despair to wife,

Man's mind and not his master makes him slave.

What theme for thee, ere, Singer of Great Strife,
To Belgium thou hadst poured libation of thy life!

November 3, 1914.

THE NEW WORLD

"COME, let us make a new world," said the proud,—

"The iron image of our perfect plan.

Let those who cannot yield to those who can.

No place for tears, or pity, or the crowd

Of weaklings. Let no patriot's head be bowed

With his sire's shame: call no one courtesan

If she be breeder of the Mightier Man

Whose valor vaunts our glory far and loud."

Mad pupils of a mad philosopher,

Think ye you have but armies to subdue?

Your foe is Woman! Hear the march of her

Through centuries, from the caverns to the blue

Of visioned peaks. Wrong ruled the years that were,

But Justice, queened by Pity, rules the new.

April, 1915.

THE HAUNTING FACE

(ON THE PORTRAIT OF A CHILD LOST
IN THE "LUSITANIA")

DEAR boy of the seraphic face,
With brow of power and mouth of grace,
And deep, round eyes, set far apart,
So that the mind should match the heart!

Not Raphael's leaning cherub had
More beauty than this winsome lad,
Nor Andrea's little John more joy
Than dimpled in this darling boy.

What mother could so happy be
As not to covet such as he?
What childless passer could forego
The smiling of that Cupid's-bow?

Here promise spoke in every curve:
The wit to see, the heart to serve;
In fine proportions here did reign
An open nature, sweet and sane.

What wonder fancy vied with hope,
To read his radiant horoscope,
And find within his future deed
The rescue of some mighty need:—

A patriot, to save the State;
A bard, to take the sting from Fate;
A prophet, men should know not of,
To lift the fainting world by love!

Mourn those—and mourn not with despair—
Who find life's last adventure fair,
But let your treasured tears be spilled
For noble presage unfulfilled.

Mine fall unbidden as I look,
Here, upon youth's unfinished book,
And with the loss my heart is torn
As Heaven had withdrawn the morn.

Ah, could I know why over me
His spirit has such potency,
Then might I know how love began
And stays, the mystery of Man.

Child of the future! Beauty's flower!
His gentle image should have power
The conscience of a realm to wring
And haunt the pillow of a king.

June 26, 1915.

EDITH CAVELL

Room 'mid the martyrs for a deathless name!
Till yesterday, in her how few could know
Black War's white angel, succoring friend and foe—
Whose pure heart harbored neither hate nor blame
When Need or Pity made its sovereign claim.
To-day she is the world's! Its poignant woe,
We thought had been outwept, again doth flow
In tenderest tears that multiply her fame.

Oh, something there is in us yet, more bright
Than Rouen's hungry flames—that could consume
Jeanne's slender limbs but not her spirit's might.
Fate still has noble colors in her loom.
One lonely woman's courage in the night
Has sealed the savage Hohenzollerns' doom!

October 22, 1915.

SHAKESPEARE *

ENGLAND, that gavest to the world so much—
Full-breathing Freedom, Law's security,
The sense of Justice (though we be not just) —
What gift of thine is fellow unto this
Imperishable treasure of the mind,—
Enrichment of dim ages yet to be!
Gone is the pomp of kings save in his page,
Where by imagination's accolade
He sets the peasant in the royal rank.
Love, like a lavish fountain, here o'erflows
In the full speech of tender rhapsody.
He dreamed our dreams for us. His the one voice
Of all humanity. Or knave or saint,
He shows us kindred. Partisan of none,
Before the world's censorious judgment-seat
We find him still the advocate of each,
Portraying motive as our best defense.
Historian of the Soul in this strange star
Where Vice and Virtue interchange their masks;
Diviner of Life's inner mysteries,
He yet bereaves it not of mystery's charm,
And makes us all the wounds of Life endure
For all the balm of Beauty.

England, now,
When so much gentle has been turned to mad,

* Written by invitation of the British Committee of the
Shakespeare Tercentenary Celebration.

When peril threatens all we thought most safe,
When Honor crumbles, and on Reason's throne
Black Hate usurps the ermine, oh, do thou
Remember Force is still the Caliban
And Mind the Prospero. Keep the faith he taught,
Speak with his voice for Freedom, Justice, Law,—
Ay, and for Pity, lest we sink to brutes.
Shame the fierce foe with Shakespeare's noble word.
Say, England was not born to feed the maw
Of starved Oblivion. Let thine ardent youth
Kindle to flame at royal Hal's behest
And thy wise elders glow with Gaunt's farewell.
His pages are the charter of our race.
Let him but lead thy leaders, thou shalt stand
Thy Poet's England, true and free and strong:
By his ideals shalt thou conqueror be,
For God hath made of him an element,
Nearest Himself in universal power.

February 12, 1916.

EMBATTLED FRANCE

ACROSS the sea that once was free now let the message
 leap
That France has won our Western hearts, and waked
 our souls from sleep!
Proud land! No more shall we mistake the shallows
 for the deep.

They knew her not who lightly thought her frivolously
 gay—
She who first taught our grimmer world the sanity of
 play;
They saw the birds that fly the nest but not the brood
 that stay.

And we who knew and loved her true and shared her
 welcome kind—
The welcome of her heart, and more, the welcome of
 her mind—
How could we know these newer bonds that evermore
 shall bind!—

That she, the Queen of Peace serene, who sought the
 sword no more,—
That she, the Queen of Art, who keeps the key of
 Beauty's door,
More royal than her royal lines, should be the Queen
 of War!—

For, though the years have drowned in tears her
 thrones and quarterings,
She, kingless, has not lost the proud residuum of
 kings :

Noblesse oblige is written fair on every flag she flings.

Let others plead a brutal need and compromise with
 faith,
And soil the robe of honor, and make of joy a wraith,
No taint of lie shall linger in any word she saith.

They reckoned ill who thought her will was sunk in
 sloth or pride,
Who held as weak her patience and on her feuds relied.
No power can lock the scabbards where thinking
 swords abide.

Oh, there is calm of Sabbath psalm and there is calm
 of woe,
And calm of slaves who never the calm of freemen
 know,
When, though the storm may tear the wave, the sea is
 calm below.

Upon the air no martial blare proclaimed the fateful
 call ;
No drum need make the summons the spirit makes to
 all ;
Not softlier to the solemn earth the autumn leaflets
 fall.

With gaze that saw far things of awe she stood as in a
trance,

But faltered not before the shock of War's long-
dreaded chance,

And every soul was born again—an effigy of France!

Oh, eyes that weep in lonely sleep but show no
waking tear,

Oh, lips with their brave silences and lingering words
of cheer:

What memories of parting have made the dangers
dear!

And when the breath of icy Death sweeps like a winter
rain,

And like a scythe the iron hail cuts down the human
grain,

How bleed we with her wounded and sorrow for her
slain!

And when beside the Marne's red tide—a lioness at
bay—

She gave September unto Mars to make him holiday,
She saved with hers our kindred soil three thousand
miles away.

How we acclaim Man's sacred name, as second unto
God,

And deem our bond a brotherhood divine of cloud and
clod!

Where are men fellows but in France, save underneath
the sod?

Her heart a cup of joy filled up to greet the dancing
day,
How willingly she spilled the wine and threw the cup
away
That deserts yet unpeopled may live in peace for aye!

The triple watchword of her faith shall spread to
every land,
Till free and equal comrades th' ennobled nations
stand,
And all shall take the sacrament from her devoted
hand.

And when Hate's last far crop is past, sown broadcast
by the blind,
The memory of her chivalry shall stir in humankind
A love akin to bridal love,—the passion of the mind.

ENVOI, TO THE REPUBLIC

When Peace and Toil shall guard thy soil in all its
ancient girth,
And Freedom, by thy fortitude, has found a newer
birth,
We still shall cry, "My France, Our France, the
France of all the Earth!"

March, 1916.

IX

POEMS CHIEFLY OF FRIENDSHIP
OR ADMIRATION

* *

QUID PRO QUO

WHAT will you give for Friendship? View it near :
The warp so firm, the woof so beautiful—
The very stuff of life! 'T will keep you warm
When silken Love, that takes the vagrant eye
With its smooth touch and tints of changing light,
Wears thin against the freezing winds of fate.
See, this is not of cold, mechanic weave
With showy dyes of aniline device,
But like an ancient, human tapestry,
The concord of robust and gentle tones,
Where threads of Joy are softened to content,
And even Sorrow's add a note of peace.

What will you give for Friendship? Yes, 'tis dear,
But how well worth the cost! Bid high, pay gladly.
Sure of its value, sure of your own need,
Take every risk. Three comradeships there are :
One that makes man more brother than his twin,
One that can sister woman in distress,
And one that both may share, the costliest
Because the rarest. This how few may know—
Its warmth, its beauty, its supernal charm!
To find it needs such instinct, such high thought,
Deep sacrifice, sweet ardor, holy faith.
And, then, the price!—dear treasures of the soul ;
Pearls of hid tears ; and jeweled hours lost
To absence and forever unretrieved ;

And, too, perchance, as penalty for joy,
Suspicion, the chief food of idle minds,
Invoking censure, by a cruel code
As old as envy, upon fancied faults,—
The vulgar making statutes for the pure,
As though the crow could teach the lark to sing!

What will you give for Friendship ere it pass?
If you have timid blood, plod on through life
Content with little, colder than your grave.
If you be brave and loyal, here's my grasp,
And we'll find heaven's spite of foe and friend.

A SONG OF PARTING

Go not so soon, dear days
Of sunlight and of haze,
When o'er the spirit flows
The soft gray sea's repose,
And memories of distress
Yield to the air's caress.
Nights of the waning moon,
Go not so soon!

Go not so swift, fair time
Of friendship, like a rhyme
That holds in harmony
What was and what shall be.
Thou that hast brought the zest
Of animated rest,
Prolong thy perfect gift,
Go not so swift!

Go not so fast, sweet hour
Of farewell to the flower.
The mystery of eve
Within our reverie weave.
Whisper that all we see
Is naught to what shall be,
That Life, that Love shall last!
Go not so fast!

READING HORACE

OH, were we good when we are wise!—
Or haply, wise when we are good!
But, fool or sage, some comfort lies
In knowing Horace understood
Our follies in their olden guise!

Of all the full Augustan choir
Our one contemporary bard,
Who strikes upon a silver lyre,
Where not a note is harsh or hard,
The human chords that never tire.

Live how he may, whene'er he sings
A poet is a democrat;
Down two millenniums there rings
The song of Leisure's Laureat
In praise of all the simple things.

What deep contentment broods above
That refuge in the Sabine Hills
From all that Rome was fashioned of—
Strife, envy, the luxurious ills
Men, town-imprisoned, learn to love!

Though oft he dwells on death, 't is e'er
With swift recoil to life. Joy, joy

Is all his goal! Though reefed sails dare
The dreaded seas to Tyre or Troy,
His placid song is foe to care.

Poor hater was he, save of greed
And gluttons and the vulgar mind—
(Thou votary of thy surer creed,
Ask heaven if thou be more kind
Than was that heart of pagan breed!)

Vowed to the laurel from the day
The doves descried his lids supine
And hid his limbs in leafy play;
A nursling of the dancing vine,
His verse was vintage gold and gay.

Give me the glowing heart, or none—
Not friendship's altar but its fire.
In his red veins how life did run!
Had ever poet wiser sire?
Had ever sire tenderer son?—

He, humble, candid, sane and free,
Whom e'en Mæcenæ could not spoil;
Who wooed his fields with minstrelsy
As rich as wine, as smooth as oil,
And kept a kiss for Lalagé.

* *

Ah, dear to me one night supreme—
A voice he would have joyed to hear,

Its music married to his theme—
When two new-mated minds drew near
And mingled in his lilting stream.

Oh, lover of sweet-sounding words,
That in thy tones but glow and soar,
Come! * * Horace with his flocks and herds
Waits thy revealing voice. Once more
Bring back to me the brooks and birds!

GIFTS

WHEN color, fragrance, form
On the steeped sense the rose
With lavish boon bestows,
What is there left to give?

When after leaden storm
The thrush outpours the rain
Of happy song again,
What is there left to give?

When one star, brave and warm,
The sentinel of Night,
Yields to the surging light,
What is there left to give?

My rose, my thrush, my star that goes before,
What canst thou give but *more*?
Oh, live, live, live!

ORIOLE AND POET

LITTLE bird of the bruised wing,
Swept to the shelter of my door,
Torn is thy nest in the willow swing.
Hast thou forgotten how to sing?
Shall thy flash be seen in the green no more?

Come, let me bind up the bruised wing.
At my open cage-door linger long.
And if for a while near the willow swing
There be one bird less, there 'll be no less song:
Thy sorrow shall teach me how to sing.

THE SONG OF ANY LOVER

Is she fair? You ask me—me her lover!
Who can measure beauty that beguiles?
Who will stop to count his one star over?
If you would yourself the truth discover,
All you need is patience, till she smiles.

Is she true? But how could you believe me—
You who call me bondman to her wiles—
You, who taunt that Time will undeceive me?
Keep your sordid doubts, my friend, but leave me
Bondman unto Duty when she smiles.

Is she young? Who reckons age by birthdays?—
Counts his happy voyages by miles?
Better one of heaven than twenty earth-days.
She who adds new merriment to mirth-days—
She is Youth Eternal when she smiles.

A PRAYER IN THE DARK

MAKER of love and longing!
Thou fountain of our tears!
When in one night come thronging
The memories of years,
God of the fallen sparrow!
God of the mateless dove!
Give to her lonely sorrow
The solace of Thy love.

KARL BITTER

O MULTITUDE of the untimely dead,
Who somewhere find and seal the endless thread
That ever to *our* eyes must broken be—
Ye who now labor with no Death to dread :

Take to your happy ranks this new access
Of flaming spirit, this pure guilelessness.
This noble fancy, this brave loyalty
That cherished Beauty more, not Honor less :—

Him whose divining skill had power to save
Too few alas ! of all our wise and brave
In bronze so true that what to-day he took
From Life, to-morrow he to History gave :—

Him in the warmth of whose inspiring word
Youth was to memorable ardor stirred,
And found so clear a path that, though the guide
No more was seen, the pilgrim never erred ;—

In whom such frank simplicity did dwell
To know him little was to know him well,
Till even the passer-by shall long recall
The cheerful music of a silent bell.

Masters of Art and servitors of Song,
Who somewhere your recessionary prolong,

Forgive us if too much we mourn the man
So welcome now in your belovèd throng.

As ye are happy at his coming, we
May not dissolve in grief his memory,
But keep his faith in Beauty as our own,
With grateful joy that such a soul should be.

THE PRESIDENT

(THE PANAMA TOLLS)

HE plead for honor and the country's good,
And craved "ungrudging measure" of support.
The Sages gave approval as they could,
But left to History the ungrudging sort.

CONSTANCE

FIRST time we met I saw her not : 't was night ;
But fancy read her lovely spirit right :
 Soft as the dark her voice
 That made my lonely heart rejoice.

When next we met, or ere I heard her speak
My fancy fared afar her like to seek :
 Where had I seen that face—
 In Reynolds' or in Romney's grace?

And when she spoke—most like a morning child
Waking to wonder—how her spirit smiled !
 Then voice and face were one :
 Music and Art in unison.

LOVE-LETTERS AT AUCTION

OF old, or knight or king,
Each feared that Time would bring
Unto the block his head.
Rest peacefully, ye dead:
Yours was a gentle crime.
Now to the block by Time
(Praise the collector's art!)
Is brought one's heart.

THE LAGGARD POET

(TO WILLIAM WATSON)

'T is said of thee—as 't were a virtue rare!—
That thou, first seeing, like fair rose on vine,
Her than the bluebell and the rose more fair,
But half a moon let pass ere she was thine.

Thou caitiff knight! What one of Arthur's clan
E'er had his love at such amazing cost?
Call thyself laggard, but no longer man—
Thou spendthrift of a priceless fortnight lost!

X

LATER POEMS OF THE
GREAT WAR

TO PADEREWSKI, PATRIOT

SON of a martyred race, that long
Has poured its sorrow into song,
And taught the world that grief is less
When voiced by Music's loveliness:
How shall its newer anguish be
Interpreted, if not by thee?

In whose heart dearer doth abide
Thy land's lost century of pride
Since triple tyrants tore in three
That nation of antiquity—
But could not lock with prison keys
The freeman's sacred memories?

Now, when thy soil lies wrecked and rent,
By cruel waves of warfare spent,
Till Famine counts so many slain
It looks on Slaughter with disdain,
However others grieve, thou show'st
The noble spirit suffers most.

Master, with whom the world doth sway
Like meadow with the wind at play,
May Heaven send thee, at this hour,
Such access of supernal power
That every note beneath thy hand
Shall plead for thy distracted land.

April 13, 1916.

THE NEW SLAVERY

(ON THE EXPATRIATION BY GERMANY OF CIVIL
POPULATIONS OF BELGIUM)

MEN of Freedom, for whose ease,
Man for man, some hero died :
Hear ye, over shuddering seas,
What the winds have sobbed and cried?
In the mirror of the moon
Have ye read the shame of noon?
Men of Freedom, hear !

Have ye heard the savage creed
Of the War Lord's iron hand :
Though the world's last drop shall bleed,
Over all, the Fatherland—
Over honor, over truth,
Over love and over ruth?
Men of Freedom, hear !

Not the Germany we knew—
Lessing's heart and Goethe's mind,
Schiller's vision, far and true,
And the peace that Kant divined ;
But a land of lords and braves—
Half of masters, half of slaves.
Men of Freedom, see !

Of another world are these—
Lords of war with hearts of lead;
Boasting of new cruelties,—
Brine for water, stones for bread.
Ye with grief and pity wrung,
These have never learned your tongue.
Men of Freedom, see!

Now the latest horror cries
Unto heaven—and unto earth!
Treble ravaged Belgium lies
Tortured for the Teuton mirth.
Was there of the Belgian heart
Left enough to tear apart?
Men of Freedom, see!

By the silent harps that hung
On the banks of Babylon,—
By the saints that Milton sung,—
By the crowns of martyrs won,—
By all human tragedies,—
By the death that exile is,
Men of Freedom, speak!

By the weakness of our great
Who bequeathed a nation's sin
To their sons to expiate,
With a soul, to lose or win;
By his strength who overthrew
That despair and held us true,
Men of Freedom, speak!

By the red of Serbia's sod ;
 Poland, paved with little bones ;
Lone Armenia's wail to God ;
 Widowed Europe's haunting moans ;
By the million ills that flow
From one King's choice of war and woe,
 Men of Freedom, speak !

By the things ye hold most fair,
 Love of home and love of breath ;
By the child's faith in his prayer ;
 By things more great than Life and Death,
Lest your grave be shamed of ye,
Speak !—and . . . if the need shall be,
 Men of Freedom, strike !

December 15, 1916.

THE PRICE OF HONOR

(THE COLOMBIAN INDEMNITY)

How much is a country's honor worth?

When the cynic of other lands shall scoff
At our sacred faith as a thing for mirth,
As a race of swine for a golden trough—
"Brotherhood?—only a sleeper's dream;
Liberty?—naught but escape from law;
Courage?—merely a school-boy's theme—
A sword in its sheath you will never draw";
Shall we haggle for honor and bargain and bid
And count the nails in a coffin-lid?

How much is a country's honor worth?

When we turn on the cynic and cite with pride
The Open Door for the surging earth,
With opportunity's welcome wide;
The path for all from sea to sea;
The rescued islands of east and west—
Made free, or tutored to be free;
And Hope, the friend of the worst and best;
Shall we count the value, in dollars down,
Of the jeweled stars in our country's crown?

How much is our country's honor worth?

We may reckon the census of numbers and gold
And plot and appraise the nation's girth,

But the rainbow's beauty, what hand can hold?
And the wind, is it richer for music or power?

—Oh, ye who stand at our threatened gate
And plan for its strength in a perilous hour,

The soul is the fortress of the State!

Let the land be proud with the pride of men:

Give us our measureless honor again.

February, 1917.

THE ANSWER OF THE LORD

I

"How long, O Lord, how long"—

A myriad voices cry—

"Shall wanton powers of wrong

Thy sacred laws defy?

The dead are like the sand,

And woe and misery

The sea bears to the land,

The rivers to the sea.

"The innocent are slain

At Mercy's bolted door ;

The infant's wail is vain,

For pity is no more.

When shall the ruin cease

And Thou confound the strong?

Till the white days of peace

How long, O Lord, how long?"

II

"How long, O men, how long,
Lift ye weak hands to Me
To rid you of great wrong?
For this I left you free.
A million years have gone
To grow the perfect flower;
I reared you from the spawn
To fit you for this hour.

"I took you from the ooze
Ere yet man measured time;
I gave you mind, to choose;
I gave you soul, to climb.
I willed you unafraid
Of all,—nay, more: that ye,
Though in Mine image made,
Should not be slaves of Me.

"I gave you Law, to guide,
That needed not My hand;
With Reason, to decide,
And Conscience, to command.
Ye are not beast or tree,
Ye are not stone or clod,
Your upward path is free,
Ye are the sons of God.

“And shall ye then descend
From your divine estate
The craven neck to bend
And call the yoke your fate?
Wake from the sloth of night
And drain life’s precious bowl!
The hour has come to smite,
Or lose a people’s soul.

“Think not that I am dumb,
Though ye be long withstood;
Ye serve an age to come
Who war for brotherhood.
Delay not to release
The arrow from its yew:
I, who am God of Peace,
Am God of Battle, too.

“Then lift ye up stanch hearts,
Make strong your hands of skill,
And by your righteous arts
Be partners of My will.
Your breath, by Me endowed,
If need give back again,
That I once more be proud
That I have made you men.”

March 3, 1917.

TO THE FIRST GUN

SPEAK, silent, patient gun!
And let thy mighty voice
Proclaim the deed is done—
Made is the nobler choice;
To every waiting people run
And bid the world rejoice.

Tell them our heaving heart
Has found its smiting hand,
That craves to be a part
Of the divine command.
Speak, prove us more than ease or mart,
And vindicate the land.

Thine shall the glory be
To mark the sacred hour
That testifies the free
Will neither cringe nor cower.
God give thy voice divinity,
That Right be armed with Power.

Thou art not lifeless steel
With but a number given,
But messenger of weal
Hot with the wrath of Heaven.
Go earn the right to Honor's seal—
To have for Honor striven.

Lead us in holy ire
The path our fathers trod ;
The music of thy fire
Shall thrill them through the sod.
The smoke of all thy righteous choir
Is incense unto God.

And when long Peace is found
And thou hast earned thy rest,
And in thy cave of sound
The sparrow builds her nest,
By Liberty shalt thou be crowned
Of all thy comrades, best.

March 23, 1917.

THE LEADER

THIS is the man they deemed of languid blood,
A schoolman versed in books, who, Hamlet-like,
Showed but heat-flashes powerless to strike—
His resolution blighted in the bud.

They knew him not—nor we, who trusted him.
See! how his brooding purpose, taking form,
Falls like swift lightning from long-gathered storm,
While fateful thunder shakes the round world's rim.

His country, stirred by him to lofty strife,
Sharing his vision, with high passion thrills;
It climbs, renouncing minor goods and ills,
And stands beside him at the crown of life.

To a new knighthood he ordains the brave,
To be soul-worthy of a freeman's birth—
Not for our wrongs alone, but that on earth
None shall be master, none shall be a slave.

But yesterday a secret of his heart,
His welcome message floods the globe like light;
It cheers the farthest darkness by its might;
Its boldness makes the undiscepted start.

Where it has spread, by sea or mountain side
Or by the bivouac of the caravan,
The lowliest feels a part of Heaven's plan
And stands erect with newly wakened pride.

Beleaguered Liberty takes heart again,
Hearing afar the rescuing bugles blow;
And even in the strongholds of the foe
His name becomes the whispered hope of men.

April 6, 1917.

THE SWORD OF LAFAYETTE

(INSCRIBED TO RAYMOND POINCARÉ, PRESIDENT OF
THE FRENCH REPUBLIC)

It was the time of our despair,
When lion-hearted Washington—
That man of patience and of prayer—
Looked sadly at each rising sun.
In all the freedom-breeding air,
Of hope and rescue there was none.
When lo!—as down from Heaven let,
There came the sword of Lafayette!

Our harbors—how they danced with light!
Our tireless bells—how they did ring!
Again we girded up to fight
Not England, but her Prussian king.
For here was succor, and the might
Of one great soul's imagining . . .
What wonder if our eyes be wet
To see the sword of Lafayette!

Upon the walls where Justice keeps
The swords she doth most gladly save,
Not one of all so deeply sleeps
Within the scabbard's honored grave

But, listening for her call, it leaps,
To live again among the brave.
Thank Heaven our naked blade is set
Beside the sword of Lafayette!

Not his, not ours, the brutal strife,
The vulgar greed of soil or dross;
The feet that follow drum and fife
Shall tread to nobler gain or loss.
'T is for the holiness of life
The Spirit calls us to the Cross.
Forget us, God, if we forget
The sacred sword of Lafayette.

April 17, 1917.

TO RUSSIA NEW AND FREE

(INSCRIBED TO MADAME BRESHKOVSKAYA)

LAND of the Martyrs—of the martyred dead
And martyred living—now of noble fame!
Long wert thou saddest of the nations, wed
To Sorrow as the fire to the flame.
Not yet relentless History had writ of Teuton shame.

Thou knewest all the gloom of hope deferred.
'Twixt God and Russia wrong had built such bar
Each by the other could no more be heard.
Seen through the cloud, the child's familiar star,
That once made Heaven near, had made it seem more
far.

Land of the Breaking Dawn! No more look back
To that long night that nevermore can be:
The sunless dungeon and the exile's track.
To the world's dreams of terror let it flee.
To gentle April cruel March is now antiquity.

Yet—of the Past one sacred relic save:
That boundary-post 'twixt Russia and Despair,—
Set where the dead might look upon his grave,—
Kissed by him with his last-breathed Russian air.
Keep it to witness to the world what heroes still may
dare.

Land of New Hope, no more the minor key,
No more the songs of exile long and lone;
Thy tears henceforth be tears of memory.

Sing, with the joy the joyless would have known
Who for this visioned happiness so gladly gave their
own.

Land of the warm heart and the friendly hand,
Strike the free chord: no more the muted strings!
Forever let the equal record stand—

A thousand winters for this Spring of Springs,
That to a warring world, through thee, millennial
longing brings.

On thy white tablets, cleansed of royal stain,
What message to the future mayst thou write!—
The People's Law, the bulwark of their reign,
And vigilant Liberty, of ancient might,
And Brotherhood, that can alone lead to the loftiest
height.

Take, then, our hearts' rejoicing overflow,
Thou new-born daughter of Democracy,
Whose coming sets the expectant earth aglow.
Soon the glad skies thy proud new flag shall see,
And hear thy chanted hymns of hope for Russia new
and free.

April 20, 1917.

THE VICTOR OF THE MARNE

(INSCRIBED TO JOSEPH JACQUES CÉSAIRE JOFFRE,
MARÉCHAL DE FRANCE)

COME, May, thou darling of the year,
In every land adored,
Bring us a draught of Nature's cheer
In brimming chalice poured;
Lift high our welcome, while with flowers we wreath
a stainless sword.

Give us the spirit's wine to pledge
To him, the soul of France,
Who stood before disaster's edge,
Master of circumstance,
And faced, unfaltering, and won that hour's portentous
chance.

Grant us a halcyon day of blue,
With light and life aflame,
That, like the Spring, we may renew
The laurels of his fame,
Since now to think of Liberty is but to breathe his name.

Adown the bright and fluttering street
Let serried thousands throng,
And children march with eager feet
In phalanxes of song,
That Memory to their latest heirs his glorious deed
prolong.

If, for a breath, we crave relief
From War's transcendent woe,
Not less for France's noble grief
Our kindred tears shall flow.
We keep for timelier days the dirge our hearts too
keenly know.

Now, our thanksgiving to the Lord,—
Who, through the ages' round,
Doth choose the humble for his sword
The mighty to confound,—
That still the doom of Jericho the horns of Israel sound.

Thanks for the soul that on the field
Of lasting good or ill
Gave to the land that would not yield
His wisdom and his will,
Till Fate, confirming man's resolve, once more was
Freedom's shield.

And thanks of solemn joy be made
For those of every sky,
Who, building up our barricade,

Our bitter cup put by,
Till at their side we now have earned the privilege
to die.

Rejoice that, deaf to every lure,
At last we gladly stand
With those who make the Right secure,
Comrades in heart and hand,
Like them, Crusaders, sworn to save the greater Holy
Land.

Graves of the Marne! Oh, not in vain
Your broadcast seed was sown:
Already nations love as men:
Through you, forgot or known,
In spite of frontiers and of flags the world shall be
as one.

May 9, 1917.

TWO FLAGS UPON WESTMINSTER TOWERS

"THIS day is holy"—so sweet Spenser wrote,
Giving to Love the world's one bridal-song.
Ah! Could he see these flags together float
Where the gray pinnacles of England throng,
What bridal-song of nations would he sing!
How Shakespeare—through whose pageantry of
State
Trumpets of Freedom and of Justice ring—
Our "true minds' marriage" now would celebrate!

My country's poets, foes of tyranny,
For great and generous England raise your voice;
Be yours the apocalypse of Liberty—
A vision that shall call us to rejoice.
Divine the omens of the glorious years
From these free flags—if you can see for tears!

April 20, 1917.

THE CROWNED REPUBLIC

I

FORGIVE us, Italy, who have loved thee long,
Daughter of Beauty, Cynosure of Song,
That we who knew thee fair should not have known
thee strong.

For Beauty is no weakling, taking odds
From earthly Power and cringing at its nods,
But giver of sovereign laws to immemorial gods.

She is no mere contriver of design,
Of thrilling color or uplifting line;
She sings within the soul a music all divine.

And when she sets the ardent youth aflame
With duty, brooking no unworthy aim,
She is but Justice honored by another name.

II

We should have read the roster of thy great
Who from mismated fragments inchoate
The fair mosaic made of thine harmonious state;

Alike in nothing but in love of thee
While thou wert yet a dream of Liberty,
They gave thee all they were and all they hoped
to be:—

He of Savoy, first man and then a king ;
He of Caprera, armed with David's sling ;
He of Turin, who won with wise imagining ;

He of the Tuscan vineyards, firm as steel ;
And he of Genoa, priest of the common weal,
And he whose voice to Venice was a tocsin-peal.

O land for whom thy sons were fain to die
As lovers are to live ! No obloquy
Their secrets could unlock, their purpose turn awry.

In thy deep dungeons Freedom grew to might,
Nourished by darkness as the rose by light.
Would tyrants conquer Thought : they must abolish
Night.

Behind the bars where Settembrini dwelt,
Beside the chains whose scars Poerio felt,
Above the beds bereaved where dauntless women knelt,

Thine image, as in Dante's vision, shone—
The Italy that some day would be one,
When alien yoke was cleft and cruel sands were run.

III

Now, when the old oppressor of thy land
Had weakly chosen by his side to stand
Who holds the torch and bribe in either treacherous
hand,

Thought they to fright thee by war's awful price,
Or silence thee by lure of paradise—
Thee with thy glorious ancestry of sacrifice?

Forgive us, we were over-slow to scan
The incredible cunning of the monstrous plan
Whereby the spider State has set its web for Man;

But fallen are the scales, and now our heart
That with thee stormed the startled Alps, takes part
With glad and welcome aid from mint and mine and
mart.

And, haply, on thy waves our ships may dare
The iron shark within his stealthy lair
Till the freed seas forget what late was their despair.

Oh, fortunate if our torn flag be found
Comrade of thine on some embattled ground
Thenceforth by Garibaldi's memory made renowned.

What name in all thine epic history
But his to summon us and trumpet thee—
Who found his foster land what thou wert born to be!

Pillar of cloud and fire, his spirit soar'th
Above thy eager legions pressing forth
And cheers them on to save their brothers of the North.

O Crowned Republic, let us be of those
Who know and conquer all the people's foes—
Without, within—that dare the gates of Freedom
close.

June 8, 1917.

HYMN FOR AMERICA

WHERE 's the man, in all the earth—
Man of want or man of worth—
Who shall now to rank or birth
Knee of homage bend?
Though he war with chance or fate,
If his heart be free of hate,
If his soul with love be great,
He shall be our friend.

Where 's the man, of wealth or wage,
Dare be traitor to his age,
To the people's heritage
Won by war and woe,—
Counting but as private good
All the gain of brotherhood
By the base so long withstood?
He shall be our foe.

Where 's the man that does not feel
Freedom as the common weal,
Duty's sword the only steel
Can the battle end?
Comrades, chant in unison
Creed the noblest 'neath the sun:
"One for all and all for one,"
Till each foe be friend.

June 10, 1917.

A SONG FOR AMERICA

How comely is our motherland,
With joy for every eye!
O'er sunlit vales her mountains stand,
Her prairies kiss the sky.
From many an autumn-bordered lake
Her fair streams seek the shore.
We love her for her beauty's sake,
But most for something more.

What vigor in her throb and tread!
How dauntless is her mind!
She plants that continents be fed,
And never looks behind.
The magic of her lamp and tower
O'ermates Aladdin's lore.
We love her for her bounteous power,
But most for something more.

We love her for her tender heart,
That thrills at Pity's call,
Her will that Freedom's goodly part
Shall be the share of all.

.
Lord of the stricken world, we ask,
(Proud peace or holy war),
Renew her might for every task
And guard her as of yore.

June 16, 1917.

AMERICA IN FRANCE

"Oh, to be in England now that April 's there!"

BROWNING.

OH, to be in Paris now that Pershing 's there!
To hear the waves of welcome that greet him every-
where;
To see the children and the girls a-pelting him with
flowers,
And feel that every petal is meant for us and ours;
To know the brave smile 's come again to worn and
widowed France,
Whose banners—now, thank Heaven! with ours—are
all that 's left to dance;
That war, that wakens hate in those who fight for love
of war,
Has made a wider world of love than ever was before;
To see this love find moving voice in living epigram:
The Poilu and the Tommy and the Son of Uncle Sam,
In a comradeship of Paris streets, like modern
Musketeers,
That, however near to laughter, is n't very far from
tears;
To see our flag that stood for faith now stand at last
for works,
And prove that, at the pinch of things, we have no
place for shirks;

To hear the hymn we sang so long, secure in sentiment,
Played proudly to a land that learns how grimly it is
 meant.

Oh, 't is a thrill to die upon, to help repay the debt
We owe the gallant memory of the boyish Lafayette,—
To know that we are brothers, in spite of race or
 tongue,
To make the round world safe for Man . . . O God,
 that I were young!

TO THE SPIRIT OF LUTHER

ON LEARNING OF THE REPORTED APPEAL OF GERMANY TO
MATRONS AND MAIDENS TO GIVE THEMSELVES "OFFICIALLY"
TO THE PROPAGATION OF THE RACE, UNDER IMMUNITY
FROM THE LAW

LUTHER, come back to thy degenerate land,
And see, as one who learned to love it sees,
How it is sunk in crimes and cruelties,
Lured by false glory to the soul's quicksand.
The thunder Wittenberg could not withstand—
Can it be silent when all honor flees
And State, not Church, tempts with indulgences?
Is there no lightning in the thunder's hand?

What though they sing thy hymn who follow goals
Of empire, futile numbers, godless power?
Rescue thy people in the basest hour
That ever Time has written on her scrolls.
Let the mad miscreants at thine anger cower!
Brutes breed them bodies: who shall breed them souls?

May 14, 1917.

XI

MISCELLANEOUS POEMS

47

THE HISTORY OF THE

A TEACHER¹

(INSCRIBED TO THE BEAUTIFUL MEMORY OF ONE WHO
GAVE HER LIFE TO HER WORK)

Go praise the Hero, ye who may:
I sing the Teacher,—one for whom
The morrow was but more to-day,—
Whose fainting labor showed the way
To pluck one's gladness from his doom.

The leisure others gave to joy
She gave to toil: to fill the day
With wine of wisdom her employ.
She, once as merry as a boy,
Had long forgotten how to play.

I see her when the scurrying band
Have left her, weary and alone,
Her pale cheek pillowed on her hand,
Watching the wistful evening land
Without repining, tear, or moan.

¹ Read before the Annual Convention of the National Education Association, Madison Square Garden, New York, July 6, 1916.

Mayhap her spirit, never sad,
 (Ah, what a challenge memory stirs!)
Demanded why grim fate forbade
Her motherhood, who gave each lad
 The love she might have given hers.

She dwelt within a lifelong dream
 Of seeing lands of far romance,—
Of loitering by Arno's stream,
Of catching Athens' sunset gleam
 That can alone its fame enhance.

Still, an uncloistered nun she went,
 With naught more fretful than a sigh,
And in her happy task she spent
Her sweetness, like some rose's scent
 In sacred treasury laid by.

Her pure devotion did not gauge
 Her service by her daily need;
And not her scanty, grudging wage,
Nor spectre of forsaken Age,
 Could take the beauty from her creed.

She faced her calling as it stood—
 Incessant, onerous, obscure;
Content if she but sometime could
Be silent partner with the Good,
 Whose victory was to her so sure.

She knew that all who reach the height
The path of sympathy have trod;
And pondered, many a wakeful night,
How she could aid with gentle might
The unseen miracles of God.

What though she might not wait the fruit?
What though she went before the flower?
She gave the timbre to the lute,
And in the voice that else were mute
Divined the rare, supernal power.

Of all she lent her strength, a few
Shall wear her name as amulet.
How many more who struggle through,
Remembering not to whom 't is due,
Shall still keep memory of the debt!

.

Oh, could we know of life the whole
Hid record, what an envied place
Were yours upon the honor scroll,
Ye faithful sentries of the soul,
Ye childless mothers of the race!

TO A POET AT THE PIANO

(K. O.)

"Not all unhappy," said one wise of heart,
"Who in his spendthrift season learned an art."
What, then, doth not the Future keep for you
Whose ardent days give mastery of two?

Into your open window by the sea
What wonder Music came, and Poetry—
Rhythm from island winds and breakers' might;
Grace from the sea grass and the swallows' flight;

Calm from the summer stars, that seem as near
As Heaven itself is on a Christmas clear;
Joy, Love, and Hope! May these about you throng
And fill the measure of each two-fold song.

SIASCONSET, August, 1916.

TO A STUDENT OF KANT

(WRITTEN IN A VOLUME OF THE AUTHOR'S POEMS)

ISABELLA LEAVENWORTH,
What were earth or heaven worth
To a poet if none heed
His discourse? But if thou read,
In the pauses of thy tea,
Finding some coincidence
Twixt mine and Kant's philosophy,
Shall I care if critics claim
It has neither sound nor sense?
Ah, this copy has no shame
Since it holds thy lovely name
With its brooklet sound of cheer,
And shall know the sweet surprise
Of fathoming thy tranquil eyes,
Seen by it as it by thee.
As for cents—ah, well—my dear
Isabella Leavenworth,
In any auction it may be
Surely six or seven worth,
And in some not distant year,—
When (each within a cozy nook)
Under dust lie bard and book—
Asking who "this Johnson" was,
Men shall call it "rare" because,
Haply, once 't was owned by thee,
Isabella Leavenworth.

"AND THEN?"

'T is time for a story, as one may know
From Robbity-bobbity's evening glow,
His rounder eyes and his open mouth,
As he begs, "Now, Bonpapa, 'Once on a time.' "
So off goes our ship for the golden South,
For parrots and fruits of a tropic clime,
For wrecks and treasure and tattooed men.
And at each adventure he cries, "And then?"

For a breathless tale you must tell to him,
Robbity-bobbity six and slim.
And if for a second you happen to pause
For a missing word or some other cause,
Or, hushing your voice to a whisper of awe,
At a thrilling moment venture to stop:
'The hunter in reach of the grizzly's claw,
Or Jack at the beanstalk's very top,
Or the knight at the mouth of the dragon's den,
He will eagerly urge you on—"And then?"

When I tell how the night-wind gave alarm
And scared the thief of the Golden Arm;
Or how Brer Rabbit his wit would match
With Brer Fox in the briar patch;

Or how the monkeys got over the stream,
Or the crabs gave a dance (they were so delighted
That Ma had escaped through the crab-net seam) —
When the Catfish came that was n't invited —
He will cock his head like a Jenny Wren
And shake his curls, and plead, "And then?"

Oh, Robbity-bobbity looks so wise
From the deep, dark pools of his sunlit eyes
As he asks the wherefore of everything:
"Why grass is green?" "Why sparrows sing?"
"Why do the squirrels climb the tree?"
"Why does the food make little boys strong?"
"What was there there before the sea?"
But this is his puzzle the whole day long:
"What 's after the counting? You count again
Millions and millions more? And then?"

He 's a philosopher, Robbity-b:
His fancy goes farther than sages see:
A sequel to every story's end:
A journey beyond the road's last bend.
Let bookmen chatter and try to prove
There is n't a future life or place:
Their logical ignorance never could move
The faith from this boy's transfigured face.
Tell him that Death is the last we ken:
He would challenge their doubt with his wise
"And then?"

THE PLEA OF THE DEFENDANT

(ON A PICTURE OF A MUZZLED PUPPY ENTITLED "ALL I DID
WAS GROWL A LITTLE BIT")

YES, here I 'm muzzled, fast and tight,
From North to South, from West to East—
I, who have hardly learned to bite,
And never harmed a human beast.
They said, because I ran and hid,
I went to have a private fit;
They called me mad, when all I did
Was growl a little bit.

And when they doused me soaking wet,
They poked me out with pole and broom,
And caught me in a horrid net,
And dragged me to a dirty room.
And when I panted as I slid,
They said "Aha!" and kicked and hit
And used the hose. But all I did
Was growl a little bit.

But Freddy, when they went away,
Brought a big rag to sop me up,
And lovely waffles on a tray,
And new milk in a china cup.

He fed me through the net, dear kid,
And said, "Now take some more of it."
I could n't thank him: all I did
Was growl a little bit.

It hurts me most to make my bed
In such a dusty, dirty mess.
For "cleanliness," my father said,
"Is next, my dears, to dogliness.
Now, puppies, do as you are bid,"
He said; "be gentledogs or quit."
Of course he knew that all I did
Was growl a little bit.

"Don't get big heads like Cerberus,
Or bay the Dog-star late at night;
Be brave, and don't be quarrelous,
But when you 're forced to fighting, fight."
I 've sniffed at many a pantry-lid,
And barked at cats that scream and spit,
But this time, surely, all I did
Was growl a little bit.

There 's a fine place, my mother thinks,
Where good dogs go when they are dead.
But my wise father only blinks
And gnaws his bone, and shakes his head.
But they agree I 'll not be chid
Up there, nor muzzled, kicked, or hit,
If it is sure that all I did
Was growl a little bit.

CARPE DIEM

(TO AN OVER-STUDIOUS YOUNG WOMAN)

COME, dainty maid, come, leave your books,
And give the day to me;
Your knitted brow and distant looks
For these few hours let be.

Your beauty shall not always stay,
Your loveliness delight;
May even now hasten on her way
And sunshine leads to night.

The treasures of your mind and heart,
Got freely, freely give,
Nor follow Science when an Art
Allures you—how to live.

Upon your laboratory shelf
Let hidden problems wait;
Find the sweet mystery of yourself
Ere it evaporate.

Come, rest beside the singing stream;
Give me your rarest hour;
Till May, in blue and green, shall dream
You are another flower.

May, 1917.

THE LITTLE ROOM OF DREAMS

I

NEXT to the shelving roof it stood—
My boyhood's cozy bed ;
So near I felt the serried storm
Go charging o'er my head.
'T is fifty summers, yet I hear
The branch against the pane,
The midnight owl, the thunder crash,
The rhythm of the rain.

The golden apples long desired
Fell thumping from the trees,
Till Dream transformed them to the fruit
Of fair Hesperides.
The owl within his chimney porch
Became Minerva's own,
The lightning was the bolt of Jove,
Each tree a dryad's groan.

From there the flames of Troy were seen,
There Salamis was won ;
Now Hannibal would cross the Alps,
And now Napoleon.

On Valley Forge's scene of prayer
My winter window gave;
Red Jacket there was eloquent,
And Osceola, brave.

Who could divine that from my sill
Fought wounded Ivanhoe?—
That there I saw Sir Galahad
Gleam in the moon, below?
Who knew that I was veteran
Of Bayard's noble strife?—
That there for many a hapless maid
I offered up my life?

There, too, I knew the midnight trance
Of not unwholesome grief,
(Since tears for others' sorrow shed
Bring to our own, relief):
I felt the lash on Uncle Tom,
And mourned Don Quixote's fall;
With David wept for Absalom,
With Dombey, Little Paul.

More oft a father's bedtime lore
So filled with joy the night,
I woke at dawn from rosy dreams
Expectant of delight.
For I had roamed the enchanted wood
With Puck or Rosalind,
Or shared with dainty Ariel
The visions of the wind.

II

Another little bed I know—
With dreams I never knew—
That holds a maid as brave and fair
As she Carpaccio drew.
Her fragrant pillow oft I seek
To find its magic power,
As one recalls a day of youth
By the perfume of a flower.

The beasts that did my sleep affright
Are from her fancy hid.
She finds the jungle full of friends,
As little Mowgli did.
For her the Æsop of our day
Summons his crafty clan.
The Blue-Bird is her happy goal,
Her hero, Peter Pan.

What visions of a spirit world
About her slumber float,
Pure as the Swan whose Silver Knight
Glides in a silver boat!
There, too,—most blessed of the dreams
That have the world beguiled,—
An Angel with a lily kneels
To greet the Holy Child.

Far be the time when care and toil
Shall wrest these joys away,
Whereby this darling of my blood
Makes yesterday to-day.
For ah—so near the things that be
Are to the things that seem—
Soon I to her, as Youth to me,
Shall be a thing of dream.

III

O Thou, the Father of us all,
Whose many mansions wait,
To whose dear welcome each must come
A child, at Heaven's gate:
In that fair house not made with hands
Whatever splendor beams,
Out of Thy bounty keep for me
A little room of dreams.

TO THE AMERICAN POETS
OF TO-DAY

COMRADES mine of Muse and Land,
When the wanton war-drum sounded
And the world fell back astounded
At a fate so lightly planned,
Heralds of the Right in song,
Were you silent at the wrong?

Comrades mine of Land and Muse,
When the mailed and haughty giant
Crushed the weak but uncompliant,
Did you falter which to choose?
Did the cult of Art for Art
Halt the tempest of your heart?

No, you left your joy untold,
Left Love's pondered rhyme impending,
Left unpraised the summer's blending
Into roadside blue and gold.
What were Nature, Love and Song
In the presence of such wrong?

At each Teuton perfidy
Trembled your swift lines with scorning.
-Lowell's vision, Webster's warning

Made you seers of Liberty:
Others doubted: you divined
The awful cross of humankind.

When the dragon, War, is dead,
Though the haunting slain be counted
Like the stars, and grief hath mounted
Higher than the Jungfrau's head,
History shall search your song
To find the measure of the wrong.

August 8, 1917.

THE KNIGHTS OF THE NEW
CHIVALRY

WHAT does our soldier take to war?
So much we cannot give him more:
Thanks, that in him a sword we draw
Tempered by liberty and law;
Faith in his honor, that is ours—
A letter writ to baleful powers;
Envy, that he it is, not we,
To welcome peril over-sea;
Pride, that our land shall worship long
At altars by his valor strong;
Love, that in absence is more dear
And made more tender by its fear;
His country's praises, spirit-pure,
In life or death, for him secure:
These shall go with him, and what more
Could knightly soldier take to war?

XII

POEMS OF ITALY IN WAR-TIME

VISIONS OF ITALY

(AFTER CAPORETTO)

It was a black and baneful day
 In Chivalry's decline
 When Austria found her devil's-way
 To break Savoia's line.
 "Five nights from now," the braggarts say,
 "In Venice we shall dine."

The true world's hope again burned low,
 And doubt grew pale to see
 The havoc of the wily blow,
 And warned of worse to be;
 But my Italian heart cried "No,"
 And dreamed of victory.

And while our very breath was hushed,
 And few were tearless-eyed
 To think of all the beauty crushed
 And all that might betide
 Across two seas my fancy rushed
 As lover to his bride.

A VISION OF BEAUTY

From Asolo's uplifted land
I watched with pensive pain
The Evening's soft and shadowy hand
Caress Venetia's plain,
To where Piave's rushing sand
Defined the Teuton stain.

Above the wide-horized heath
Nine-towered Treviso loomed,
And Padua's seven domes, whereneath
Her gentle saint is tombed;
While, like a lily from its sheath,
San Marco's tower bloomed.

Sweet-syllabled, the vesper bells
A maze of music wound,
From towns whose very naming tells
A rosary of sound,
While grapes and lingering asphodels
Still perfumed all the ground.

And, last, I heard Bassano's toll
(That drowns the Brenta's roar);

And there was something in its roll
 Was never there before:
 A tocsin to the patriot soul
 The Western breezes bore.

It was as though the bell were sent
 To wake the sleeping land,
 And cry "O Italy, sore-spent!
 Now let thy legions stand:
 No farther inch of fair content
 Yield to the spoiler's hand.

"Look on thy beauty and be proud
 As partner of God's plan,—
 Half by His mighty thought endowed
 And half by Him through Man:
 The Alps, whose incense is the cloud,
 The temples Love began.

"Long shall outlinger human shame
 The snow-clad eminence;
 But these, that breathe His holy name —
 The spirit's monuments —
 Shall He who wrought with thee their fame
 Not share in their defense?"

A VISION OF ANGELS

Then there appeared with robe and crown
A host in heavenly guise,
As all the angels had come down
From Dante's Paradise;
The thought of some Italian town
Gave glory to their eyes.

The sunset pierced them through with gold
And many-colored fire,
Till they as beautifully were stoled
As Fra Beato's choir:
A cloud of witnesses of old
Called mortals to aspire.

And while I wondered at the sight
I heard a soft ado
That, as though chanted by the light,
To this clear anthem grew;
"Fight ye for Freedom and for Right,
But fight for Beauty, too."

And as they sang this high command
In evening's growing shade,

The Eastward pointing of each hand
 A myriad gesture made;
 I turned, to see the skyey land
 Was all in rose arrayed.

The Alps, the clouds, the near lagoon,
 Prolonged the heavenly scene,
 And the last breath of afternoon
 Lit up the brown lateen,
 Where lay, impatient for the moon,
 The Adriatic's Queen.

A VISION OF THE DEAD

A stir recalled me to the West
 When lo! what change I saw!
 Not crowned with haloes were the blessed
 But helmeted with awe;
 The robes were warriors' cloaks; out-pressed
 Each sword toward Austria.

Alike had been th' angelic fold
 As rose to rose may be,
 But now the patriot ranks out-rolled
 As far as eye could see —

Souls that had begged from Heaven the mould
Of their mortality.

Among the militant array
I saw the prophet grim
Who showed Earth Hell. (Ah, Earth to-day
A worse Hell shows to him!)

His eyes were Southward turned, as they
Would see Ravenna dim.

Near him, with face that ne'er knew youth,
Savonarola came —
He who dared tell a Prince the truth
And mirrored royal shame;
(Would that one tyrant without ruth
Might see his evil fame!)

I saw within the brooding throng
The makers of the State —
Exiles, and martyrs of old wrong,
And unforgotten great,
Whose names live in Italian song
And votive street and gate.

I knew by one deep-musing head
Mazzini, free of guile,

And marked, among the living dead,
 Cavour's defensive smile,
 And, still by Garibaldi led,
 The Thousand, file on file.

Most loyal of his Court, the King
 Pressed forward to the front,
 As though against the foe to fling
 The courage he was wont,
 Like a huge mastiff coveting
 The danger of the hunt.

How fair this country must have seemed
 To those who were its cost!
 How proud of what their blood redeemed,
 How grieved for what was lost!
 How eagerly would they have streamed
 Where clashing banners tossed!

Now in their larger vision stood
 Their country's new distress,
 Till Earth became the greater good
 And Paradise the less.
 (Welcome a second death if 'twould
 Defend such loveliness!)

And as, at dawning of the night,
The pageantry withdrew,
From Po to farthest Dolomite
Their anthem rose anew:
“Fight ye for Freedom and for Right,
But fight for Beauty, too.”

A VISION OF HEROES

Then, through the mellow twilight air,
There falls another sight:
A thousand white-winged pilots fare
High in the sunset light,
And all that men or devils dare
Is centered in their might.

These neighbors of the stars, who hold
The bridle of the gale,
Whose courage, in the zenith cold,
Is still their stoutest mail —
To whom should fitlier be told
That freedom shall not fail?

They know the cruel Teuton heart
That made their mothers weep,

That nothing sown, in life or art,
 One now may surely reap,
 For, flying over church and mart,
 They think of Rheims and Ypres.

With joy they view Siena's towers,
 And Pisa's treasures three,
 And the dear City of the Flowers,
 And Milan's tracery,
 And think "This Beauty still is ours
 Because our land is free."

Then, with an old-new pride astart,
 On Venice they look down,
 On the one miracle of Art
 More fair than its renown,
 Where every poet leaves a part
 Of his own laurel crown.

And from the organ-pipes of light
 That did her pathways strew,
 And from her domes, now drowned in night,
 They hear the prayer anew:
 "Fight ye for Freedom and for Right,
 But fight for Beauty, too."

ENVOI

O daring travelers of the blast,
Saw ye the heavenly band
That bade their Italy stand fast?
Shall they not to her hand
Send all the strength of all the Past
To save your Holy Land?

THE TRAITORS OF CAPORETTO

A LEGEND OF TO-DAY *

WHOSE feet are these that plod all day
The moon-white roads of Italy —
Strange prisoners of their guards in gray —
While children hoot and mongrels bay?
Who may the miscreants be?

Not theirs the gait of those who till;
They tread the paces of the court;
And, though they bear some shameful ill,
They yet were noble once, and still
Have trace of noble port.

See, on the shapely wrists well-born,
The clanking gyves, as they come nigh.

* It should be said that while the main fact herein set forth was strenuously asserted by no fewer than four credible sources, it has been as strenuously denied by Italian officials since the lines were written. Therefore, in order to divest the poem of the claim of historical accuracy, I have added this sub-title.
— R. U. J.

And how contemptuously torn
The missing gold once bravely worn
To please a woman's eye.

Can these be Austria's boasted blood,
Debased for some new cruelty —
Her honor draggled in the mud,
Her will swept aimless on the flood
Of Prussian perfidy?

No, read the riddle as they go:
Upon their backs once straight and proud,
One word — that Italy may know
Who dealt her the betraying blow —
Cries "Traditore" loud.

These showed on Caporetto's day
Against their land a Judas-league
With those who scorn the knightly way
Of manly strength in open fray,
To conquer by intrigue.

Then was unstrung as brave a bow
As e'er o'ershot the walls of Troy.

The world was wondering still, when lo!
The conquered Alps, the conquered foe
Turned swift against Savoy.

Not Teuton valor did the deed:
These undissevered tongues it was
That spread the fatal lie, whose speed
Outruns the rout, while thousands bleed
To give the treason pause.

No knightly heritage could save
These whilom gentlemen of ease,
Who, adding cunning to the knave,
Cried not "Avanti" to their brave,
But poisoned words of peace.

They pass, from all the jeers and groans,
Whom other groans and jeers shall greet —
Now struck by Tuscan clods and stones,
Now spat upon by Umbrian crones,
And Rome is yet to meet!

There crowds shall prod them on their way
With oaths; and women near their time
Against the Evil Eye shall pray,

And patriot statues wreathed with bay
Shall clamor of their crime.

And one impatient dawn shall see
Each face turned toward a fortress wall,
And at a shout of musketry
Their all — except their infamy —
Shall perish as they fall.

April, 1918.

TO ITALY *

MOTHER of Noble Minds! How shall we pay
The homage of our love — nay what withhold?
Thou Bride of Learning, never false or cold;
Hostess of Beauty to the world, no day
Uncheered by thee along our saddest way;
Mother of Men ardent and wise and bold,
Who gave to Art new life, to Law new mould,
And unto Freedom new, immortal bay.

Mother of Great Adventurers, air or sea!
Columbus, voyaging to undreamed good,
Like Man's brave soul; and he, of thy new brood
The farthest picket in the vague of space.
What height or hindrance ever daunted thee
Whose forward spirit debtors every race!

* First published in the programme of the Benefit for the
Blinded Soldiers of Italy, New York, October 12, 1918.

ITALIA REDENTA

ON HEARING THAT THE ITALIAN FLAG WAS AGAIN
FLYING OVER TRENT AND TRIESTE

TILL yesterday 'twas "Italy Unredeemed."
At Freedom's altar, by that sacred phrase,
Striplings, now grandsires, made their faithful vow.
Henceforth those words are History's, to be kept
Like some torn battleflag of Savoia's line,
While the new songs and music trumpet forth
" *Italia Redenta.*"

The day of victory be the martyr's day! —
Not the grim morning when Battisti's soul
Into the Darkness marched — to find it Light;
But this glad moment that his faith foresaw
When Alps to Adriatic should resound
With rapture, and the hills proclaim in fire
" *Italia Redenta.*"

Now, when against the mother-heart there beats.
Incredibly, the heart of each lost child,

The Adriatic to the Alps replies
With one brave name, Sauro. Could the foe,
Learnèd in torture only, have divined
How soon that name would blend in the new cry,
 "Italia Redenta"?

O Italy, thy martyrs are our own,
And the whole world's redeemed again by Love.
Nothing more sacred is than life except
The joy of its surrender. Mother of grief,
Help us forget not what it cost to write
In blood across thy borderland the words
 "Italia Redenta."

November 10, 1918.

which had been used by
the British in the war of 1812
and the American Civil War
and the British in the war of 1812
and the American Civil War

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XIII
LATEST WAR-TIME POEMS



THE SHIP OF LIBERTY

LINES ON THE LAUNCHING OF THE "NEWBURGH,"
SEPTEMBER 2, 1918

O SHIP of Liberty!
Our hearts go forth with thee.

Not with the thunder of guns
Shalt thou assault the Huns;
Not through the winter drear
Shalt thou keep vigil clear
Where lies the caged foe,
His fleet a futile show;
Not thine to leap the wave
With instinct of the brave,
Hunting the hidden craft
That aims the coward shaft.

No; but not less thine aid
To Freedom's cause is made.
Across the winter waste
Thy eager breath shall haste
To bear our heart-sent food

To Freedom's brotherhood;
To take thy share of souls
That Freedom war-ward rolls —
The strange, new tide that breaks
On France's shore and shakes
From their foundation stones
The tottering Teuton thrones.

O Ship of Liberty!
Our hearts go forth with thee.

THE FLAG WE LOVE SO WELL

(MARCHING SONG)

MARCH along, march along, with a song
For the land of the brave and the free.
Let the people throng to save from wrong
The world and the world to be,
The better world to be.

Chorus:

On, on, by dark or dawn,
'Neath the constellation
Of a mighty nation;
The stars of night are not more bright
Than the flag we love so well,
The flag we love so well.

Let us fight with our might for the best
Till tyrant kings shall cease,
Till East or West, there be none oppressed
In the coming Age of Peace,
The coming Age of Peace.

Chorus: On, on, by dark or dawn, etc.

Every kiss that we miss shall abide
As a seal of the joy to be,
And the mother or bride shall march by our side
An Angel of Liberty,
An Angel of Liberty.

Chorus: On, on, by dark or dawn, etc.

To the strong, like a song from the grave
The voices of martyrs call:
"Go forth ye and save the weak and the slave
In the brotherhood of all,
The brotherhood of all."

Chorus: On, on, by dark or dawn, etc.

May, 1918.

INTERLUDE

(IN WAR-TIME)

I THOUGHT that War held all my mind,
That wrong and sorrow world-bespread,
Had made mine eyes to beauty blind,
And all the gleeful gods were dead —
Till came Allegra floating by,
Joy in her smile, Youth in her eye.

Tell me the secret of her voice
That with a passing commonplace
Could make my stranger heart rejoice
As she were sent to cheer the race.
— No, rather tell me why to me
It must remain a mystery.

Not love she brought, but something more —
No private good reserved for two,
But treasure lavished from the store
Of the loved dead — we know not who.
From what far past her power to bless
By muted notes of tenderness?

Oft shall I see 'twixt eye and book
The grace of each enchanting line,
The summons of her backward look,
And that I followed not, repine.
Resolve my problem, if you know,
Which were the fault, to stay or go?

Ah! sometimes, though the tempest lower,
The very lightning may reveal
Through cloven dark a blithesome flower
And make us live by what we feel,
And leave a heart's-ease rich and warm
As lasting memory of the storm.

February, 1918.

THE MARNE

(IT IS A CURIOUS COINCIDENCE THAT ATTLA AND THE
KAISER WERE BOTH TURNED BACK AT THE MARNE)

DOWN through dim centuries of shame,
While worthier names live not,
How faithful is the evil fame
By Attila begot!
How Aquileia flaunts his name,
Though hers is nigh forgot!

But now appears a shade malign
Eclipsing the eclipse —
A name, of horror such a sign
It grates upon the lips —
Whom History down her endless line
Shall scourge with scorpion whips.

Was it but chance Marne's slender stream
Saw both these tyrants foiled —
That here the Hun's imperial dream
Twice from the foe recoiled,

As from a cliff the wave's extreme
To which the tide has toiled?

Did memory of Marne's renown
Make of its name a shield
When the new Attila swept down
By hill and startled field
And thought to summon Paris town
Her keys of might to yield?

Or — as rapt witnesses averred —
Loomed there against the sky
A host of heaven, as white as curd,
That, leaning from on high,
Gave strength against the swarming herd
'Neath God's impatient eye?

River of Liberty, now to be
New comrade of the Seine
That bore Jeanne's ashes tenderly
Down to the eager main:
Marne, that henceforth shall add a plea
To the "Marseillaise" refrain!

Once more returns to these green banks
The shifting line of hope;

Once more the earth's relumined ranks
 With hosts of darkness cope;
Once more to heaven go up the thanks
 And prayers of those who grope.

God of Just Battles! knowing well
 Our purpose and Thy plan,
Here, where beleaguered legions fell
 To save the world from clan,
Oh, give us victory, lest Hell
 Unteach us love of Man.

July 8, 1918.

TO THE RETURNING BRAVE

VICTORIOUS knights without reproach or fear —

As close as man is ever to the stars! —

Our welcome met you on the ocean drear

In loud, free winds and sunset's golden bars.

Here, at our bannered gate,

Love, honor, laurels wait.

Though you be humble, we are proud, and, in your stead,
elate.

Fame shall not tire to tell, no sordid stain

Lies on your purpose, on your record none.

No broken word, no violated fane,

No winning one would wish had ne'er been won.

You were our message sent

To the torn Continent:

That with its hope and faith henceforth our faith and
hope are blent.

You of our new, our homespun chivalry,

Here is your welcome — in all women's eyes,

The envious handclasp, romping children's glee,
Music, and color, and glad tears that rise.
Here every voice of Peace
Shall bruit our joy, nor cease
To vie with shotless guns to shout your blameless vic-
tories.

But, though you are a part of all men's pride,
And from your fortitude new nations date,
Oh, lay not yet your sacred steel aside,
But save it for the still-imperiled State.
You who have bound a girth
Of new hope round the Earth,
Should its firm bond be loosened here, what were your
struggle worth?

A redder peril dogs the path of war;
With fire and poison wanton children play;
And fickle crowds toward new pretenders pour
Who summon demons they can never lay.
Already we can hear,
Importunately near,
The snarling of the savage crew, half fury and half
jeer.

Then hang not up your arms till you have taught
The ungrateful guests about our hearth and board
That in your swift encounter has been wrought
A keener edge to our reluctant sword.
You who know well the price
Of the great sacrifice,
Your courage saved us once; pray Heaven, it need not
save us twice.

And those who come not back, who mutely lie
By Marne or Meuse or tangled Argonne wood:
Were it to lose the gain, (let them reply!)
Would we recall their spirits if we could?
Open your ranks and save
Their places with the brave,
That Liberty may greet you all, her shields of land
and wave.

January 4, 1919.

THE GOAL

NOT war for the sake of war,
 But war that war may cease.
NOT peace for the sake of peace,
 But to open each rusted door
That since the world began
Has prisoned the soul of man.

"LISTEN TO YO' GYARDEN ANGEL"

A NEGRO SPIRITUAL

I

RECOMMENBEH what I's sayin':
Ebery day, at wuck or playin',
 I kin heah de sperrits call;
An' deir cla'rness do astoun' me,
But de common folks aroun' me
 Dey cyant heah de wuds at all.
An' sometimes it am de debble,
Wid his voice way up in treble,
 Sort o' trailin' me along;
An' sometimes — I beg yo' pardon —
It's de Angel fum de Gyarden
 Jes' a-warnin' me fum wrong.

Chorus:

Oh, listen to yo' Gyarden Angel,
Oh, listen to yo' Gyarden Angel,

Oh, listen to yo' Gyarden Angel,
An' yo' nebber kin go wrong.

II

Now, it's usu'l in de mawnin',
When I feels so spry and scornin',
Dat I disremembers Gord;
An' de ole blue-debble jay-bird
Says, "Come on an' be a gay bird,"
Till he mos'ly gits me floored.
But it's offen to'd de night-time,
Twix' de sun an' candlelight-time,
When de jay-bird's gone to res',
I kin heah de whipporwilliams
Singin' like a hundred millioms
Gyarden angels in de Wes'.

Chorus:

Oh, listen to yo' Gyarden Angel, etc.

III

In de midnight when I's dreamin',
An' I wakes all scyart an' screamin',

'Caze de debble got me, sho,
An' de sperrits tries to ha'nt me,
An' ma troubles tease an' ta'nt me,
 An' I cyant go sleep no mo',—
Den I heahs de hahps a-ringin'
Like as all de stahs wuz singin',
 An' ma narves gits calm an' sof',
Fer I knows de Heabenly Gyarden
Sends ma Angel down, a-wahdin'
 All de ebil sperrits off.

Chorus:

Oh, listen to yo' Gyarden Angel, etc.

TO AN UNKNOWN POET

I READ far into the silent night
The book of a bard unknown,
And, rapt in the songs he did indite,
Forgot to write my own;

But the time he has stolen from my Muse
His shall give back to me
When, stirred by the gain I can never lose,
I hold them in memory.

1918.

PHILOPÆNA

ANNEKE thought it royal fun
The pretty game I taught her,
And ere my lesson quite was done
With "yes or no" I caught her.

Bright spirit, in whose glances sweet
Dwell joy and wit as tenants,
With "give or take" when next we meet
My lips shall claim the penance.

1918.

THE CALL TO THE RESERVISTS

This was the message under the sea
Sent by the Motherland, Italy:

“Sons of the isle where the Thousand broke
The chain that bound to the Austrian yoke;
Men of the Apennines, free and strong,
Whose grandsires suffered the Austrian wrong;
You who were born in Vesuvius’ sight,
Who learned from your fathers how to fight;
Romans, proud of your pedigree;
Genoese, playmates of the sea;
You from towns on the Tuscan hills,
And you whom the dream of Venice thrills;
Exiles all of you, many or few,
Back to the land of the sunlit blue
Come, for your Italy needeth you!

“For now at last is the time to smite
The foe on his stolen Alpine height;
To hunt his warships in their lair;

To launch new navies in the air.
God holds the issue; we but know
Here parts the road where the nations go
Toward hell or the far millennium! —
And Italy's time to choose has come."

Then answered the sons of Italy:
"Whatever the cost of thy choice may be,
Land of our love, we stand with thee."

And some fought under the crown and green,
And a host 'neath the Stars-and-Stripes were seen
As the New World sprang to the side of the Old.
And so, when the tale of the war is told,
You shall find, of the legions of Liberty,
There was never another braver than he,
The swarthy reservist from over the sea.

April, 1919.

ARMENIA

Of all the nations new and free —
The remnant seed of cruelty —
Who has a better right to be
A foster-child of Liberty

Than thou,
Armenia?

Lift up with hope thy stricken brow —
See! all the West sends cheer to thee,
Armenia.

Oh, thousand years of wrong and scorn!
Oh, night that seemed to have no morn!
Martyr of cross and spear and thorn,
Thy path to Calvary shall be worn
No more,
Armenia!

Last of the fateful brood of war,
The world stands still till thou be born,
Armenia.

By Ararat the blood-stained snow
No more shall lie; Euphrates' flow
Unmoaning to the sea shall go.
Time shall restring the harp of woe
 To willowy song,
 Armenia,
And memory shall make thee strong
And thou what thou hast dreamed shalt know,
 Armenia.

1919.

THE SPOILS OF WAR *

What does our soldier bring from war?
So much we cannot covet more:
Acclaim of victor, both by those
His victor-comrades, and his foes;
A sword with bay and myrtle wreathed,
In honor drawn, in honor sheathed;
The love of children who intone
His country's anthem with their own;
The gratitude of many a land
Whose tongue he ne'er shall understand;
The prayers of alien knees that bend
In faiths he cannot comprehend;
And benedictions that shall be
Bequeathed to far posterity
By those who feel, but do not know,
What they to the Great Rescue owe.
These are the spoils he bears: what more
Could knightly soldier bring from war?

April, 1919.

* See page 473.

MAXIMA CARTA

(INSCRIBED TO PRESIDENT WILSON, CHAMPION AND
BEARER OF THE COVENANT OF NATIONS)

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that
bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace!"

HAIL, newest charter of the hopes of Man! —
Greater than every scroll that hitherto
Has pledged our safety — many against few,
Few against many. Seems it but a span
Toward Freedom's goal what Runnymede began.
The pact and pattern that our fathers drew,
Incorporate here, is glorified anew,
And seals the waiting world American.

Kings are no more, but only names of kings:
Henceforth are crowned the States that serve the
sphere.
Come, patient Heaven, with healing in thy wings!
Haste, Choir of Earth, with your harmonious chord!
Madness shall yield to Order. . . . Who shall fear
When all the world gives bond to break the unhal-
lowed sword?

THE FOUNTAINS OF ASHOKAN

THE AÆRATION OF NEW YORK'S WATER SUPPLY HAS
ADDED AN EXQUISITE AND ASTONISHING FEATURE OF
BEAUTY TO THE LOWER CATSKILLS.

HENCEFORTH what dream can e'er efface
Ashokan's pure and irised throng?
Not Dryads, nor the Dryads' grace,
Not Naiads, nor the Naiads' song.

Like ghosts of cedars cool and tall —
They mount close-clustered, row on row —
As white as when the moonbeams fall
Upon the newly fallen snow.

Yet they are not a thing of night,
But souls of nymphs that stand by day
Poised for a fellowship of flight
While with their robes the breezes play.

They live in light — not spirits dire
That haunt the darkness — not to harm,

But like a massed angelic choir
With song of benison and charm.

Their beauty, to the verge of pain,
Dwells in my memory. I glean
A song above the heard refrain,
An unseen spirit in the seen;

For not of Death their waters speak
But Life, these glad Ashokan towers:
In heavenly ministry they seek
The City's human weeds and flowers.

Ah, could they flash their song and sight
To house and hovel as they pass,
How urban toil and care and blight
Would quaff new beauty in the glass!

September, 1919.

THE ONLY DOLL IN THE VALLEY

I

UP near the sources of Po,
Where the lakes reflect the snow
And Italy touches heaven,
There's a little girl of seven,
A cara bella figlia,
With the tinkling name of Ottilia:
Hair like the blue-black night,
And a brown, pomegranate skin,
And a joy, to the sun akin,
That war has failed to blight.
She lives in a little alley
Of stone, near the big casino,
And against her gown of merino,
Sewed up like the good Bambino,
She carries a rare delight —
The only doll in the valley.

II

What matter the numberless cracks
In its little noddle of wax,

Or that one eye from its socket
Lies in Ottilia's pocket? —
That kisses have worn the paint
Till the red of the lips is faint?
For this is the children's saint,
And all the girls in Bezzecca
Flock to Ottilia's alley
As the Moslems flock to Mecca.
And she with a heart of gold
Lends them the doll to hold;
And, of all the wistful eyes,
Which speak of the greater lack —
Hers who begs for the prize,
Or hers who gives it back?
Oh, yes, they have other needs,
Those patient waifs of war —
Victims of noble deeds
In regions near or far
Done by their gallant sires,
Long sworn at Freedom's fires:
Milk? — they've forgotten its look!
Shoes? — but the clogs are strong.
Coal? — ah, there's little to cook,
And the winter nights are long.
So when the peasants appear

In search of some common cheer
At the scanty market rally
Of the Val de Ledro drear,
What pleasure for the girls
To be for an hour beguiled
By the cheeks and the flaxen curls
Of Ottilia's foster-child —
The only doll in the valley!

III

Children, rich with the spoil
Of many a Christmas gone,
Who know neither hunger nor toil
And revel in lace and lawn:
Girls of America! think
Of the debt that your country owes
To the little dark daughters of those
Who fought for us and fell
On the frozen mountain brink,
Or the hot Venetian plain,
In the homesick sound of the vesper bell,
Their loss your children's children's gain.
From the corner where you keep
Your cradled pets asleep,
Give, for the friends of Ottilia,

Your favorite "Mimi" or "Sally";
And if on the ocean it misses
The warmth of your bed-time kisses,
It will find no lack of others
From Italy's little mothers.
Give, till from Trent to Sicilia
There shall be some cheer through the winter drear
For the girls in every valley.

October 12, 1919.

CÉCILE

I

WHAT do I see in Cécile's eyes
More than the first divine surprise?
The olden dignity of Spain
Made gentle by remembered pain;
The mountain-courage of Savoy;
Rich vintage of Italian joy;
The poised serenity of France,
Gift of a high inheritance;
And, best of all,— from what deep spring? —
Such sympathy with suffering
As takes from sorrow half the sting.

Surely to these soft eyes 'twas given
To bring authentic word from Heaven —
For thus their sweet suggestions run:
That Love and Duty are but one.

July 2, 1917.

II

HERE, on this upland farm,
In the fair mid of May,
Where bees in golden swarm
Melodiously stray,
How sweet the orchard bloom,
The honeysuckle scent,
The lilac's soft perfume,
In one warm fragrance blent!
But something sweeter still
Exhales from garden ways —
A soul unsoiled by ill,
The darling of our praise.

Who heard her tones' caress,
Or saw her smiling eyes,
Ne'er spoke of happiness
As a lost paradise.
We weep, but we rejoice,
Who knew her spirit's spell —
The angel in her voice
That told us all is well.
In every tempest, calm;
Sure, when our doubt would grope;

To all our sorrow, balm,
The darling of our hope.

We place upon her now
The symbols she loved best —
One cross upon her brow,
Another on her breast.
Mother to suffering men,
Brief her own motherhood.
Her courage served her then
That had so much withstood.
Hark! from her window-tree
I hear the mourning dove;
Not gentler it than she,
The darling of our love.

May 11, 1918.

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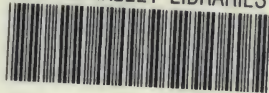
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